

3 killed in S. Lebanon clash

MARIYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Israeli troops and allied militiamen clashed with Iranian-backed guerrillas in South Lebanon Saturday. Two Shiite Muslim snipers and one militiaman were reported killed and two Israeli soldiers wounded. Security sources said the fighting flared in the area of Jezzine, the largest town in South Lebanon that sits on the tip of a corridor leading to Israel's self-designated "security zone." Hizbollah, Iran's main ally in Lebanon, said its guerrillas attacked an Israeli army patrol in the Jezzine area with machine-gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades. The communiqué claimed "the entire enemy patrol was wiped out," but did not give specific figures. The Voice of the South Radio station of the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army said one of its militiamen was killed. The Israeli army confirmed the three fatalities and said two Israeli soldiers also were wounded in the firefight and were evacuated to an Israeli hospital by helicopter. The Hizbollah communiqué said heavy fighting raged in the area after the Israelis allegedly called in reinforcements of tanks and helicopter gunships. But it made no mention of any Hizbollah casualties. Israeli gunners and the SLA later pounded several villages suspected of being Hizbollah strongholds facing the central and western sectors of the "security zone" with Howitzer fire.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

King meets ICAO chief, Lebanese minister

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein met at the Royal Court Saturday with Assad Quteib, head of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Council, and reviewed with him Jordan's achievements in the field of civil aviation and its cooperation with the ICAO. The King praised Dr. Quteib's efforts and those of the ICAO in the course of helping to ensure the safety of air passengers and civilian aircraft. King Hussein met separately at the Royal Court Saturday with Lebanon's Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabani and reviewed labour issues in the Arab World. The King underlined the importance of pan-Arab meetings which he said, would promote the work of institutions concerned with collective Arab action. He stressed the importance of the Arab labour ministers conference which is due to open in Amman Monday. The Lebanese minister said his country highly valued King Hussein's continued support for Lebanon and his role in serving pan-Arab causes. Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabani was present at the meeting (see earlier story on page 3)

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Kuwait corruption scandals grow

KUWAIT (AP) — A parliament deputy accused an unidentified Defence Ministry official Saturday of taking \$100 million in kickbacks, adding to the mounting corruption scandals that have rocked Kuwait since last year. In an interview with the independent Al Qabas daily, Mubarak Al Dawaihi said the official had taken unlawful commissions on arms deals with foreign companies. He did not name the suspect or give any other details. "Kuwaitis are sick of this series (of scandals)... I'm sure the defence minister will be cooperative in following up on whoever thinks about embezzling public money," Mr. Dawaihi told Al Qabas.

Hrawi seeks Saudi help

JEDDAH (AP) — Lebanese President Elias Hrawi arrived Saturday in Saudi Arabia, the second phase of a Gulf tour to drum up financial assistance for Lebanon's post-civil war reconstruction. The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said King Fahd was on hand to receive the Lebanese guest at Jeddah's King Abdul Aziz International Airport. It said the Saudi monarch later escorted Mr. Hrawi to the guest quarters, but did not say when their official talks would take place. Before departure from Beirut, a statement from the president's office said Defence Minister Mohsen Dalouh and Information Minister Michel Samaha were among a four-man delegation that accompanied Mr. Hrawi on his 24-hour visit. The Lebanese media said Mr. Hrawi planned to urge the monarch to reopen the Saudi embassy in Beirut, closed since it was ransacked and burned by zealots in August 1984.

Mahathir in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad arrived in Tehran Saturday saying his trip was designed to upgrade economic and political ties. The broadcast said Mr. Mahathir and his ranking 180-member delegation were welcomed at Mehrabad airport by Iranian Vice President Hassan Habibi. The visit is the first exchange at this level between the two countries since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution.

Swedish minister appeals to Iraq

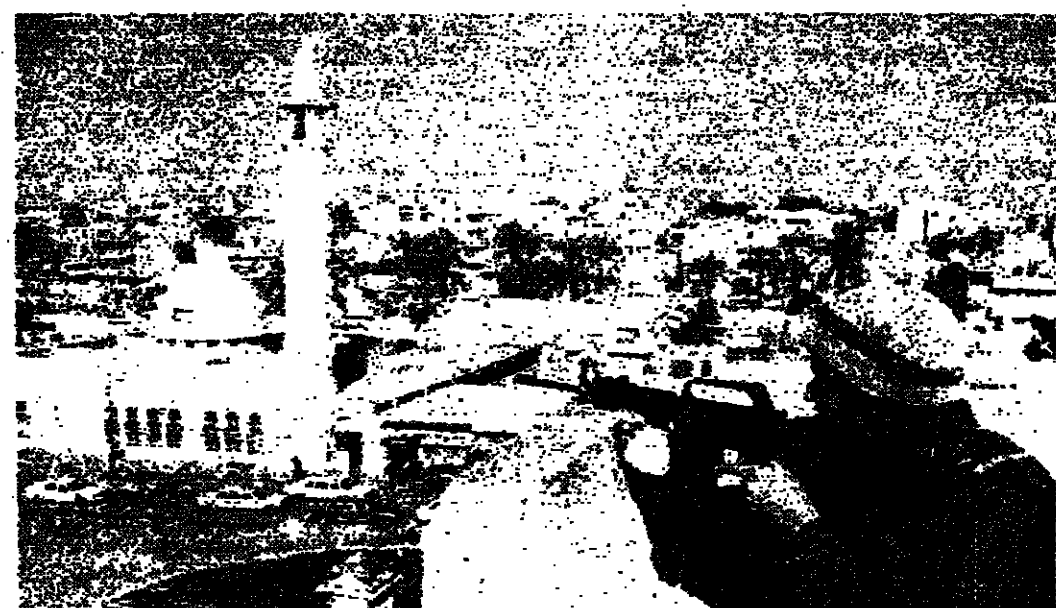
STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Foreign Minister Margaretha Af Ugglas in a letter to her Iraqi counterpart has appealed to that three jailed Swedes be released, a foreign ministry spokesman said Saturday. "It is an appeal from the foreign minister to find a solution as soon as possible to have them released," Claes Jerneus said. It was the first time the Swedish foreign minister has appealed directly to Baghdad on behalf of the jailed Swedes.

Ozal meets Talabani

ANKARA (R) — Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani held talks Saturday with Turkish President Turgut Ozal on the Kurdish rebellion in Turkey. "I am very satisfied with our talks with the president. We have exchanged views on Iraqi Kurdistan," the PKK (Kurdish Labour Party) was also "included," he said after meeting Mr. Ozal. "Violence cannot solve any problem anywhere. There should be a peaceful solution," he told reporters in Ankara. Last month PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan declared a unilateral ceasefire from March 20 to April 15 which led to a decrease in violence in Turkey's southeast. The offer was relayed to Turkey by Mr. Talabani.

Fateh officer hurt in attack

SIDON (AP) — Assaults tossed a grenade on the commander of the Fateh guerrilla faction in the refugee camp in Mieh Mieh Saturday. Police said the commander, Fathi Zeidan, was critically wounded in the blast. Fateh's intelligence chief in the camp, Ali Farhoud, accused Abu Nidal's breakaway Fateh-Revolutionary Council faction of engineering the assassination attempt in an ongoing war between the two groups.



Israeli snipers posted on roofs overlooking the centre of Khan Younis in the occupied Gaza Strip as part of a backing up of Israeli forces in the occupied territories (AFP photo)

PLO: Israel responsible for escalating cycle of violence

Israeli policeman killed, soldiers wounded in 'mistaken' shootout at roadblock in West Bank

TUNIS (Agency) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Saturday Israel was to blame for the recent violence in the Israeli-occupied territories and the impasse of the Middle East peace process.

A statement released after Palestinian leaders met in Tunis late Friday accused Israel's government of "waging a global war against the Palestinian people under the pretext of imposing security."

"The Israeli government is responsible for the escalation in violence and for putting the peace process at an impasse," said the statement published by the Palestinian news agency Wafa.

Middle East peace negotiations involving Israel, its Arab neighbours and Palestinians have stalled since December when Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to South Lebanon.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin indefinitely barred the nearly two million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Israel this week in response to violence that has killed 76 Palestinians and 17 Israelis since he ordered the expulsions.

Soldiers enforcing the ban rounded up hundreds of Palestinian men and boys Friday in house-to-house searches at Shati refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

The statement said the PLO disapproved of "foreign parties trying to cover the Israeli government's crimes against the whole Palestinian people."

West Bank and troops fired at the vehicle, the army and radio reports said Saturday.

The incident Friday night underscores the tension in the occupied territories following a month of violence.

The checkpoint was one of dozens set up by troops to enforce a closure of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed by Mr. Rabin earlier this week.

The army said Eitan Masika of the Israeli police was driving in the West Bank about 10:30 p.m. Friday with three Israeli soldiers in his car.

Israel Radio said the three soldiers, two men and a woman, had left their base without permission and were hitchhiking near the Jewish settlement of Maale

Israeli policeman killed

A policeman was killed and two soldiers seriously wounded when their car sped past two army roadblocks in the occupied

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Soldiers work in farms, page 2



Christine Nielsen vacuums a tomb pole at a museum in Vancouver, a site U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin will tour during their Saturday-Sunday summit (AFP photo)

Clinton vows help for Russia; Yeltsin pledges to pursue reform

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — President Bill Clinton, arriving Saturday for his first summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, vowed to "mobilise the world" to support Russian reform. Mr. Yeltsin said Western aid would help him "bring the reform process to completion."

Mr. Clinton arrived after Mr. Yeltsin. Two hours apart, they each stood at attention on the red-carpeted tarmac alone in the rain without umbrella as a military band played national anthems.

Each leader was greeted by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and then held separate talks with their summit host.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin planned to meet for about seven hours over two days. Saturday's summit sessions were focusing on economics; Sunday's meeting was on security and foreign policy.

Mr. Clinton said an international effort, like the one mounted to confront Iraq in the Gulf war, is needed to help Rus-

sia. "I want America to act but America cannot and should not act alone," Mr. Clinton said in his weekly radio address. The address was broadcast Saturday but taped Friday night in Portland, Oregon, where Mr. Clinton attended a forest conference.

"Just as we mobilised the world on behalf of war in the Gulf, we must now mobilise the world on behalf of peace and reform in Russia," Clinton said.

He noted that 20,000 nuclear warheads remain in Russia. Mr. Clinton brought with him \$1 billion-plus aid package. Most of the money already has been appropriated by Congress. "The president wants a programme that is deliverable. He wants one that he can get into the hands of the Russians as soon as possible," Secretary of State Warren Christopher said on CNN.

Mr. Yeltsin, who spoke by phone with Mr. Clinton Thursday night, signalled that he was satisfied with the president's offer.

While too little aid will not

have the desired impact, "too much can be bad because it would be used by the communists to target us... the opposition will say we are going to be ensnared by the West," Mr. Yeltsin said.

He said the efforts by the West, including a \$160 million aid package announced by Canada Thursday, were welcome.

"We must understand that Russia is shedding one social order to assume another social order. That's why it is so difficult for us," he said. "The communists want to take revenge, to take us back to the past."

Meanwhile, "We," a newspaper that is a joint effort between Izvestia and Hearst, reported in Saturday's editions that U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has offered to have the United Nations monitor Russia's April 25 referendum and any future national elections.

Mr. Ghali said in an interview with the newspaper that the U.N. would assume such a role "if Russia asks."

Majority of voters says House did well but deputies did not

Survey finds 50% prefer not to change Election Law, identifies priorities of voters

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — More than two thirds of the Jordanian electorate are satisfied with the course of the democratisation process and believe that the 11th Parliament of the Kingdom did a satisfactory job, but such satisfaction does not extend to the deputies in their respective constituencies, according to an opinion poll, whose full content have just been released.

The poll, conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies of the University of Jordan in January this year, also found that 50.6 per cent of Jordanians are in favour of retaining the present electoral system, while some would like to have a strict one-man-one-vote system and a revamped constituency distribution.

The study, which covered 1,197 voters — 602 males and 595 females — also found that 50.1 per cent think lawmakers have to do more to upgrade the level of legislation and 47.3 per cent believe it is the duty of the government rather than deputies to adopt such measures and do more for democracy.

The findings, said to have an error margin of five per cent, come at a time when politicians and observers are looking for trends in the

electorate for definite signals ahead of the next elections.

Parliament members, officials and analysts contacted by the Jordan Times said they preferred not to comment until after they see the full survey and its findings.

One deputy-cum-minister said, however, that he was familiar with the poll, and that "it seems that it is perhaps the most reliable survey of its kind ever conducted in Jordan."

"Scientific approaches were adopted in the administering of the survey and it is also clear that the target audience was clearly representative of the electorate," added the parliamentarian, who preferred anonymity.

"I think the results speak for themselves," said Dr. Fawzi Gharaybeh, president of the University of Jordan. "We have not tampered with the findings, and have presented them as they are, leaving to the concerned people to draw the conclusions."

He emphasised, however, that "the various conclusions that could be derived from the study need not necessarily be the same, because politics are involved."

On the study itself, Dr. Gharaybeh said: "Scientifically speaking, there is no doubt that it is highly representative of the Jordanian electorate."

The poll found that only 19 per cent of the respondents (i.e. seven per cent of the target audience since only 76 per cent said they would vote in the next elections) who consider reelecting some or all of their present deputies will vote for Islamist activists; 27 per cent (10 per cent of the total audience) said they would vote for candidates from any shade of the political spectrum regardless of their affiliation with the Islamist bloc, and 54 per cent (20 per cent of the total audience) would vote for deputies who are not members of the Islamist bloc.

According to the poll, those more inclined towards the Islamist bloc are in the age group of 19-24 years, unmarried, with post-high-school education and employed/self-employed.

The survey, which covered almost every part of Jordan and described by its organisers as the most scientific poll ever conducted in the Kingdom, also came up with a list of 20 serving deputies found most popular and as such favoured for reelection in their present constituencies.

These included: Amman: Ali Faqr (Independent Islamist), Abdul Muneem Abu Zant (Muslim Brotherhood), Taher Al

(Continued on page 5)



Abdul Rahman Al Udwan
Udwan replaces Fheid

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday appointed Major-General Abdul Rahman Udwan as director-general of the Public Security Department (PSD) and promoted outgoing PSD Director-General Fadel Ali

(Continued on page 5)



Fadel Ali Fheid

Hamas team visits Qatar

DOHA (R) — Members of the Palestinian group Hamas are visiting Qatar to seek political and financial aid for their struggle against Israel in the occupied territories.

The visit is the first by Hamas to the oil-rich Arab Gulf region which was a main financial backer of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) before they fell out in 1991 over the PLO's support for Iraq in the Gulf crisis.

A delegation led by the head of the group's political department, Musa Abu Marzouk, arrived in Doha Friday and expects to spend a few days there.

"We want to present the need to support the Palestinian question politically through the media, and financially," Mohammad Nizzal, Hamas's representative in Amman, told Reuters on Saturday.

"We can say that this is the first official visit to a Gulf Arab state," he said.

When asked if Hamas would ask for direct financial aid from Qatar, he said: "It is presumed that these are the issues to be presented to our Qatari brothers."

The Hamas team was invited to Qatar by the Religious Affairs and Endowments Ministry, and Mr. Nizzal said it was not yet clear which officials they would be meeting in Doha.

The group, the PLO's main rival in the Israeli-occupied territories, has claimed responsibility for most of the attacks on Israelis since Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to Lebanon in December.

Israel accused the Palestinians of links to Hamas and other Islamic groups. Most of the exiles are Hamas supporters. Mr. Nizzal said the expulsion of the Palestinians has helped boost the role of Hamas in the Middle East.

"The deportees issue transformed Hamas from a Palestinian circle to the Arab and international arenas," he said.

He rejected any compromise deals with Israel to resolve the issue of the exiles and reiterated the group's strong objection to the revival of the Middle East peace process.

Palestinians: Christopher comments do not bode well for peace talks

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two Palestinian leaders Saturday warned that recent statements by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in support of Israel's stand and the Jewish state's repressive measures in the occupied territories did not bode well for the resumption of the Middle East peace talks.

The head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Political Department, Farouk Kaddoumi, said that Mr. Christopher's statement before a congressional committee in Washington revealed continued American support for Israel and would also adversely affect the peace process.

The comments that Mr. Kaddoumi said were made by Mr. Christopher appeared to be those the secretary made at a congressional hearing.

"The president intends to ask for the same level of funding this year for Israel as last year," Mr.

Christopher said. "There seems to me, based upon my trip there, there's very strong need for continued funding for refugee programmes. Israel has taken a great burden of refugees from the Soviet Union and elsewhere, so I think there's every likelihood that we'll continue that very positive programme because it's so important to the strength of the democracy in Israel which we have such a large stake in," he said.

He also said Saudi Arabia and Kuwait ought to be asked to at least eliminate the secondary and tertiary effect of the Arab boycott against Israel so that it does not result in discrimination against American firms.

"I think the maintenance of the Arab boycott, especially against American firms through secondary and tertiary effects, is highly undesirable and not justified and I'll continue to press that point," he said.

"The statements will create new obstacles at a time when the Arabs want to see the sponsor of the talks acting fairly and re-

sponsibly so as to win the confidence of the various parties," Mr. Kaddoumi told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Faisal Hussein, the overall head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations with Israel, warned that the continued deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories would cause more human losses.

"The Palestinian response to Israel's repressive measures can only be of the same nature — a normal reaction on the part of a people living under occupation," Mr. Hussein said.

"They made the statements following a meeting with foreign minister Kamel Abu Jaber in the course of 'a continued process of coordination and consultation between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides to the peace talks,'" Petra said.

The two Palestinians briefed Dr. Abu Jaber on the outcome of the Palestinian delegation's re-

(Continued on page 5)

Mubarak: Egypt will not become 'another Iran'

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in remarks published Saturday Muslim militant unrest was under control and Egypt would never become "another Iran."

Mr. Mubarak said in an interview with Al Seyesah and its sister newspaper Arab Times that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the blind fundamentalist cleric who preaches the overthrow of the Egyptian government, was a "media-made leader."

"He cannot be another Khomeini nor can Egypt be another Iran," Mr. Mubarak said of the U.S.-based cleric, whose followers have conducted a wave of attacks on tourists in Egypt.

About 116 people have been killed and 220 injured over the past year in a confrontation between Egyptian police and the militants. Some of Sheikh Abdul Rahman's U.S.-based followers have been charged with the bombing of New York's World Trade Centre in February.

"I can confidently declare that terrorism in Egypt is under control... you can say it is breathing its last," Mr. Mubarak said.

"All terrorists are under the security microscope and I assure that we know them one by one we know their names," addresses

and motives."

Mr. Mubarak said he would continue to act toughly against the militants.

"We have given instructions to all sides concerned to use their powers in a very tough way to put an end to this foul play and stop such shameful acts which are totally unacceptable to Islam. Those who kill innocent life are not Muslims."

Mr. Mubarak denied that economic conditions had a role to play in the militancy, which he said did not belong to Egyptian soil.

"They are an illegitimate child for illegitimate sides trying to win legitimacy through gunfire," Mr. Mubarak said he was accusing, but in an interview published in the London-based Arabic newspaper Al Hayat Tuesday he said the militants had received assistance from Iran and Sudan.

More than 200 suspected Muslim extremists have been arrested around Egypt as a preacher claimed the crackdown and killing of militants is being undertaken at the orders of the United States.

"The regime is killing anyone who preaches or enters a mosque and their only crime is Islam."

Algerian bank drama ends in gunbattle

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian security forces killed five heavily armed suspected Muslim militants and freed all 11 hostages in an overnight assault on a bank outside Algiers, the official news agency APS said Saturday.

All the hostages were "safe and sound and the terrorists killed," after a shootout lasting nearly one hour, APS said, quoting a source close to the security services.

Officials use the term "terrorists" for Muslim fundamentalists blamed for violence that has killed more than 600 people in the past year. They are also accused of staging several holdups, said to be for getting cash to buy weapons.

Troops, paramilitary gendarmes and elite police units ringed the branch of the Banque Nationale d'Algerie in Al Affroun, 55 kilometres south of Algiers, after the alarm was given on Wednesday afternoon.

Residents living near to the bank, situated by a mosque and market, were evacuated, APS

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Egyptian ambassador sees 'threshold of new Camp David'

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Parties to the Middle East peace process are "on the threshold of a new Camp David," Egypt's new ambassador to the United States, Maher Al Sayed, said March 29. And with the United States now as a full partner, he added, the parties "have reason to look to future talks with much more optimism."

Speaking to the Washington chapter of the American Jewish Committee, Mr. Sayed said the Middle East is ready for "a settlement that ensures the rights of all the parties, the security of all the parties, but that will go beyond that in establishing regional cooperation between all the countries and the peoples of the area."

"Peace, to be durable, has to be fully accepted by both parties...and all of the parties to the process now are determined to achieve agreement," he said.

The envoy, who has been the Egyptian ambassador to Belgium, Portugal, the USSR and Russia before coming to his Washington post, said parties to the peace talks "have come to recognise that peace is not a one-way street — it is not something one party imposes on the other."

"Peace is so important that it needs compromise on both sides," he stressed, pointing out that both Arabs and Israelis have made compromises and abandoned some of the demands they made a few years ago.

Mr. Sayed said the U.S. role as a full partner "is one that has been evolving since Madrid," and may now involve "friendly persuasion" but not coercion. "No party to the process should be required to sacrifice its own strategic interests," he told a questioner.

But he stressed, "It is important for the parties to examine carefully what their best interests are. Security is something that can be achieved without the acquisition of territory."

In his address, entitled "Egypt's Role in the New World Order," Mr. Sayed said Egypt is accepted as an important player in the process because of its role in the Camp David accords, and President Hosni Mubarak and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin have already established "a very good working relationship."

"The contacts have been continuous...As soon as elections occurred in Israel, Hosni Mubarak contacted Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and arranged to meet with him," he said. "We have recognised that this is a very welcome change, and we have expressed our desire to cooperate with this new government in introducing a new era of peace."

He added, however, that "this does not mean that we agree on everything that Mr. Rabin does,

or that he agrees on everything we do. It does mean that we would like to do all we can to encourage Mr. Rabin to pursue the course that he has set."

Mr. Sayed took exception to a reporter who characterised the peace between Israel and Egypt as a "cold peace."

"The main thing is that peace exists...that there are contacts and cooperation," he responded. "I don't think that peace requires that you love the people you are at peace with."

Moreover, "people should be allowed some time" to adjust to the idea of peace and prospects for cooperation, he explained, noting that the relations between Israel and Egypt are increasing in many areas.

In response to a question on the Arab boycott, he pointed out that Egypt is not boycotting Israel and has not since the signing of the Camp David accords.

"I think we will see that this peace will become warmer and warmer...We are willing to go along (in) making this peace warmer," he added.

"What is happening in the occupied territories is something that we honestly feel very strongly about," he said. "Many Egyptians would not like to go to Israel until this problem is solved. We feel that it is a most unfortunate situation. We feel solidarity with the Palestinian people."



SILENT EMERGENCY: A group of children at a hospital in south Sudan. The U.N. says that about 1.5 million Sudanese need urgent food and medical aid (AFP photo)

Palestinians gone, Israeli soldiers work in farms

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Soldiers moved in Friday to help save Israeli crops, replacing Arab labourers at the height of a crucial harvest after the government sealed the occupied lands.

It is a busy time for flower growers and exports to Europe for Easter, but the 1,500 soldiers sent in the fields also are helping harvest celery and tomatoes.

"Since this morning we're sorting flowers," Michal, a woman soldier, said on army radio. "It's a break from the daily routine."

But Menachem Peled, a flower grower from the collective farm Herut in central Israel, told the radio that though the soldiers' help was appreciated, some were doing more harm than good since they lacked training.

The flower growers' troubles illustrate Israel's dilemma in barring about 110,000 Palestinian labourers from entering Israel following a month of violence that has left 13 Israelis and 26 Palestinians dead.

The closure has helped calm Israeli nerves. But both farmers and Israeli contractors, who are heavily dependent on Palestinian workers, are finding it difficult to do without the low-paid labour.

The indefinite closure of the occupied territories began Monday in Gaza and Wednesday in the West Bank.

It caught flower growers along Israel's coastal plain with 50 per cent of their Easter export crop opening and wilting. Israel's flower industry earns about \$200 million annually in exports.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed to a request to let 1,000 Arab labourers pick flowers start-

ing this weekend.

Hanan Rubin, spokesman for the military government of the occupied territories, told the Associated Press the permits would be given on an individual basis and mainly to women.

Israel's jobless rate is 11 per cent, and the government employment office has set up booths to recruit Israelis for farm work.

The labour ministry also has provided subsidies to help Jewish settlement farms in the occupied lands, and Russian and Ethiopian immigrants are being recruited.

But farmers still complain they are not getting help when they need it most because many Israelis don't want to do hard physical labour.

"I'm stuck with 50 dunams of celery," said Pinchas Zamari, from the southern collective farm of Beit Hagadi. "If it's not picked within a few days it'll be lost."

Yoav Kalimany, the head of the agriculture committee in the region bordering the Gaza Strip, told Israel Radio he asked the employment office for 300 workers to replace Palestinian labourers confined to Gaza.

"Only three showed up," he said.

Meanwhile, sending soldiers to settlement farms in Gaza has angered Israeli peace activists who say the public should not have to rescue those who profit from the occupation.

"These settlements were established on the basis of cheap labour, of totally twisted Zionism," said Amiram Goldblum, an activist for Peace Now.

Iraq denies part in New York bombing

BAGHDAD (R) — A newspaper published by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son said Saturday allegations of possible Iraqi involvement in the New York World Trade Centre bombing were "lies and plots."

"(U.S.) circles are trying to fabricate lies and plots to hint that Iraq is involved in the sky-scraper operation," Babel newspaper, published by President Saddam's son Uday, said.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) sources said Wednesday an international search was under way for Iraqi-born Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, 25.

The sources said Mr. Yousef, who previously lived in New Jersey, was believed to have left the United States four days after the bombing.

"The said Iraqi has left the U.S. and the threads of conviction him are flimsier than a spider's web," Babel said.

Certain circles in the United States were trying to concoct an accusation, that went beyond Mr. Yousef as an individual and implicated Baghdad, it said.

"Those circles could realise there are Iraqis who carry the Iraqi nationality card but do not believe in (Baghdad's) revolutionary regime," Babel said.

"It said: 'Iraq differentiated between struggle and terrorism' and was 'very careful' not to get involved in such 'irresponsible' operations."

"When confronting unfair U.S. policy...Iraq does not rely on terrorism, but opts for the duel as a knight in the battlefield," Babel said.

The FBI sources said Mr. Yousef had been roommate of Mohammed Salameh, a key suspect charged in connection with the blast which killed six people and injured more than 1,000.

U.S. authorities have not provided details of Mr. Yousef's alleged role, but the New York Daily News said he arranged for \$2,400 to be wired from Germany to Mr. Salameh so that he could pay hospital bills resulting from an injury in a road accident.

UNRWA warns of cut in services if deficit persists

VIENNA (Agencies) — United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Ilter Turkmen has urged donor governments to increase their 1993 contributions to UNRWA. Speaking at a specially convened meeting in Vienna Friday, Mr. Turkmen said that UNRWA would be "forced to begin reducing some services beginning on 1 July unless additional funds are forthcoming." The agency faces a \$28.5 million deficit in its regular and emergency programmes for 1993.

"UNRWA's emergency programmes are now more important than ever, both in the occupied territory and in Lebanon," Mr. Turkmen said. In the four month period between Dec. 1 1992 and March 1993, fifty-seven Palestinian fatalities were recorded in the Gaza Strip. Over 2,100 intifada-related injuries in Gaza were treated in UNRWA clinics or local hospitals and 414 children under 16 were injured by gunfire. Palestinian refugees in Lebanon have no access to government services and some 30,000 are homeless.

The commissioner-general said that due to the closure of the Gaza Strip on March 28 and the West Bank on March 30 by the Israeli authorities, Palestinian labourers were now unable to earn an income by working in Israel. He pointed out that if the closure continued, the agency would have no alternative but to respond with emergency food assistance to Palestinians living in

the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mr. Turkmen said that UNRWA's task was humanitarian, any cuts in agency services to Palestine refugees might have political repercussions. UNRWA schools — which average 50 pupils per class — would be forced to increase class size. Assistance to increase class size would have to be frozen. Present levels and the quality of medical care and the hospitalisation programme will be severely affected.

During the meeting, the Canadian government announced \$500,000 Canadian-dollar pledge for UNRWA's emergency programme.

The commissioner-general reported that he had recently completed trips to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain to seek additional funding from Gulf countries.

The special meeting was convened by Mr. Marcel Tremblay, chairman of UNRWA's Advisory Commission and the permanent representative of France to the United Nations in Vienna. "The urgent situation caused by UNRWA's financial deficit has prompted this initiative," said Mr. Tremblay. In his closing statement, he asked governments to reexamine their commitments to UNRWA's budget. "Governments should recognise that increased contributions would help both the agency and the Palestine refugees who rely on UNRWA's assistance," Mr. Tremblay said.

Era of refinement ends with sale of pasha's treasures

SAINT JEAN-CAP FERRAT, France (R) — Turkish-born aristocrat Ilhamy Hussein, the last of the pashas, spent years building a fabulous collection of antique gold and porcelain, tapestries and furniture at his French Riviera villa.

The urbane collector died aged 95 last October and it took five days to sell the lot.

The auction, held earlier this month at Hussein's "Baia di fiore" villa in exclusive Cap Ferrat, marked the end of an era of refinement.

"He was probably the last real pasha. It's unlikely we'll see such a collection again for some time," said Paris auctioneer Jacques Tajan, a friend of Hussein's.

Some 25,000 collectors, dealers and sightseers converged on this haven of wealth to view the collection before the auction, blocking the narrow tree-lined avenues with sleek limousines.

Ancient chandeliers and wall candelabra lit rare tapestries lining the walls. Eighteenth-century cabinets gleamed with antique gold and silver tableware.

The main sale, at nearby Monte Carlo, attracted more than 1,200 people, many of whom were evening dress in keeping with the pasha's lifestyle.

They came from all over the world and those who could not attend communicated bids by way of 140 specially installed telephones.

Mr. Tajan had hoped the sale would fetch about 60 million French francs (\$11 million) for the 3,000-piece collection of 18th century French furniture, Chinese porcelain, ornaments and paintings.

It brought in 75 million francs (\$13 million).

"I've never seen anything like it in the 30 years I've been in the business," Mr. Tajan told Reuters. "People realised it was the end of an era."

Centrepiece of the sale was a pair of wooden chests by Charles Cressent, cabinet-maker to the duke of Orleans, dated 1749, according to the catalogue. A Belgian collector bought them for 8.8 million francs (\$1.6 million) to furnish his French castle.

Four Vermeil champagne buckets, made by Paul Storr of London in 1807 and engraved with the British royal coat of arms, went for more than 1.4 million francs (\$250,000).

"I've sold pieces at higher prices, but this collection embodies a lifestyle of total refinement," Mr. Tajan explained.

Born in Istanbul in 1897, Hussein married a descendant of Mehmet Ali, viceroy of Egypt, and went to live in Cairo. His financial skills earned him the esteem of King Farouk, who honoured him with the title of pasha.

Hussein sought refuge in Monte Carlo when his property was seized after King Farouk's overthrow in 1952.

He rubbed shoulders with the personalities of the day, such as British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Greek millionaire Aristotle Onassis and German-born actress Marlene Dietrich.

Widowed, he married American heiress Myrtle Harkness and moved to Cap Ferrat. The newly-married Prince Rainer and Princess Grace of Monaco, as well as the duke and duchess of Windsor, were among those who attended their lavish parties.

The pasha rebuilt his collection, turning his vast Italian Renaissance-style villa into an Aladdin's cave.

Towards the end of his life, again widowed, Hussein gave up the night-life and elegant galas of Monte Carlo, becoming almost a recluse.

He had no children and left most of his fortune to nephews and nieces in Turkey. French authorities will collect 55 per cent of the sale proceeds in death duties.

The villa is on the market for 150 million to 200 million French francs (\$27 million to \$36 million).

Warlords told to stay out of Kismayu

MOGADISHU (AP) — U.N. officials said Friday they had told rival militia leaders to stay out of Kismayu to prevent another clash like the one that killed 15 people at the auxiliary police station this week.

The clash in the southern port city occurred Wednesday between supporters of Colonel Omar Jess, and Mohammad Said Hirs, known as General Morgan.

Marine Lieutenant-General Robert B. Johnston, commander of the U.S.-led coalition, travelled to Kismayu Friday to meet with the commander of the Belgian military contingent controlling the district, and the head of the marine amphibious group sent to the area a week ago for a show of force.

Gen. Johnston also carried letters, signed by him and U.N. special envoy Admiral Jonathan Howe, to be given to Col. Jess and Gen. Morgan.

"The letters basically told them personally not to come into the city of Kismayu," said Marine Col. Fred Peck, U.S. military spokesman for the Operation Restore Hope relief mission. "Their presence has a tendency to incite action there, and it's best they stay away."

Kismayu has been the site of the worst recent unrest in a country where civil war and famine

killed an estimated 350,000 people last year.

A Feb. 22 clash between Jess and Morgan supporters sparked two days of riots in Mogadishu. Another battle on March 16 threatened peace talks then under way in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The talks yielded an agreement signed last weekend by all 15 Somali factions. A ceasefire committee met for two days, this week to determine how to penalise violations.

Col. Peck said the committee was due in Kismayu Saturday to talk to elders and try to ease the situation.

"The committee will make it clear to them that the consequences of violations of the accords are and hopefully lead toward a political solution, to the problem," Col. Peck said.

Details of Wednesday's clash remained sketchy. It appeared that Jess supporters sought refuge at the auxiliary police headquarters, the Red Cross compound and the Medicins Sans Frontiers hospital after a peaceful demonstration became a confrontation with Morgan backers.

Several grenades were thrown into the Red Cross compound, and all three sites were pelted with rocks. Gunfire erupted at the police compound. It was unclear who was killed. About 1,000 Jess supporters were evacuated from the city.

Coalition forces fear that Col. Jess may be preparing an assault on Gen. Morgan's forces. Although such an assault has little chance of success, such a conflict would further pressure coalition forces, who deny accusations they tacitly support Morgan.

Meanwhile, officials reported that four Canadian soldiers are under investigation for the death of a Somali man after his March 16 arrest in Belet Huen. The head of the Canadian army, Lt. Gen. Gordon Reay, said from Ottawa that it appears to be "a serious homicide case."

The investigation apparently prompted a suicide attempt by Corporal Clayton Matchee, 29, who was taken into custody after the death was discovered.

Cpl. Matchee remains in a coma in Canada, where he was flown for treatment. Three other members of his unit — trooper Elvin Brown, 24, and Sergeant Mark Boland, 32, are under investigation.

Authorities have not given a cause of death for the unidentified Somali, who was found unconscious in his holding cell and died at Belet Huen hospital.

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Arab-American leaders pleased by meeting with Christopher

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher has briefed 35 members of the executive committee of the Council of Presidents of National Arab-American Organisations on his recent trip to the Middle East.

"The meeting itself was what was important," James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute, told USIA following the 45-minute meeting in the Old Executive Office Building.

"This is a moment for Arab leaders to realise how far we have come. This is the first time that Arab Americans have met as a group with a secretary of state or a high-level administration official — and it's the first time we have ever met with a high-level administration official," Mr. Zogby explained. "That's why we are so excited about it."

Mr. Zogby said the 35 Arab American leaders included

mayors, Democratic Party leaders at state and national levels, and religious leaders.

While "no new ground was broken, and the content of the meeting was a briefing on U.S. administration policy, what was significant was the early recognition by the secretary of state of parity" between Arab American and Jewish American communities.

"The administration has signalled its recognition of parity between the groups and demonstrated a real openness in working with us," Mr. Zogby said.

Mr. Zogby said the meeting had been called at Mr. Christopher's request, and was held in the same room in which he met with members of the American Jewish community a few days earlier.

Former congresswoman Mary Rose Oakar (Democrat-Ohio)

characterised the exchange as "very good, very direct, very matter of fact." She said "the bottom line was that the administration is trying very, very hard to bring peace to the Middle East."

Ms. Oakar said that in addition to the Middle East peace process, the subject of Bosnia was raised by Muslim members of the delegation. "Christopher said while some initially made fun of the food drops, they have come now to see that it is helping feed people. He really is very sensitised to all the people in that region, and I think that was a very important assurance," Ms. Oakar said.

Ms. Oakar said Mr. Christopher also indicated that "when he went to the Middle East, all of the countries that he visited said that they would go to the peace negotiations."

She added, however, that Mr.

Christopher acknowledged that "one of the stumbling blocks are the refugees in southern Lebanon."

"While there were no new elements" in Christopher's remarks, "it was a business like serious exchange of information, and we appreciate the fact that he took time to brief us," said Khalil E. Jahshan, executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans.

Mr. Jahshan said Mr. Christopher "talked about his trip to the region, his achievements on that trip, and the attempts of the administration to get the peace process back on track."

He said the administration has defined the U.S. role as a full partner in the peace process, "as a pro-active role, and a fair arbiter trying to bring the parties together more effectively."

He said a new element in the

U.S. position "is the willingness of this administration, if or whenever it becomes necessary, to introduce its own ideas, its own proposals on the table."

Hala Maksoud, president of the Arab American University Graduates Association, also characterised the meeting as "very positive — very productive."

She said Mr. Christopher, in the exchange not only signalled "a willingness to listen, but the willingness in the future to hear more."

"The willingness to listen was there...it is significant...and it represents a change," she said.

In their discussion of the expellees, Mr. Maksoud said, Mr. Christopher assured the group that the agreement the U.S. struck with Israel to return 100 Palestinians "was in no way a wavering" to the U.S. commitment on human rights.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Reves d'enfance
17:40	Les Ois de Fort Boyard
19:00	News in French
19:15	Le Journal de l'histoire
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Who's the Boss
21:10	Egounox
22:00	News in English
22:20	French series: "Ce diable d'homme"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:58	Fajr
06:17	(Sunrise) Duha
12:39	Dhuhr
16:12	'Asr
19:01	Maghrib
20:28	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 610740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637285	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzianate Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 638543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 778336	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654922	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Another rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be easterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	6/23
Aqaba	16/25
Jericho	4/27
Jordan Valley	12/28
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 20, Aqaba 22. Humidity readings:	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Rashed Zeinoun	888685
Dr. Nidal Al Dalah	827195
Dr. Walid Al Masri	675485
Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala	756046
Firas pharmacy	661912
Fordous pharmacy	783236
Al Asana pharmacy	670255
Nairokh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yasoun pharmacy	644945
Samuel pharmacy	676640
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Ali Shoaqiri	(-)
Alqada pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Issa Al Omari	(-)
Khalil pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	890390
Public Security Department	63021
Police Complaints	608800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	6541646
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	610230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	6900360
Abdullah Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	775111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	636381
Company	663220
RJ Flight Information	06-53200

HOSPITALS	
Queen Alia Int. Airport..... 06-53200	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	81381322
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Al-Khail Maternity, J. Amn.	624412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsat	6641714
Shamsat Hospital	669131
University Hospital	843845
Al-Mushor Hospital	6672279
The Islamic, Abdali	66612737
Al-Ash, Abdali	6541646
Italian, Al-Mulajzen	777013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	77511126
Army, Marja	89161175
Al-Hamra Hospital	6224050
AQABA:	
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900360
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986232
Al-Hilam Modern Hospital	(09)90099
IRBID:	
Princess Batna Hospital	(02)275555
Crook Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
09:15	Aqaba (RJ)
10:00	Jeddah (RJ)
10:30	Larnaca (RJ)
10:45	Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:00	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:15	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:00	Rome (RJ)
12:15	Vienna (RJ)
12:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:45	Aden (RJ)
21:30	Jeddah (RJ)
21:45	Damascus (RJ)
22:15	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
22:30	New Delhi (RJ)
23:05	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
23:15	Riyadh (RJ)
23:30	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
23:45	Bangkok (RJ)
	Sanaa (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
07:05	Larnaca (CY)
09:30	Beirut, Rome (AZ)
11:25	Cairo (MS)
11:30	Doha, Bahrain (GF)
16:00	Moscow (SU)
19:15	Larnaca (CY)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in file per kg.	
Apple	700 / 700
Banana	680 / 680
Beans (Makammar)	620 / 620
Cabbage	900 / 700
Carrot	50 / 60
Cauliflower	160 / 120
Cucumbers (large)	120 / 80
Cucumbers (small)	220 / 160
Eggplant	340 / 260
Garlic	300 / 400
Grapefruit	240 / 180
Lemon	400 / 300
Marrow (large)	400 / 300
Marrow (small)	200 / 150
Mint	320 / 260
Onion (dry)	320 / 260
Onion (green)	280 / 200
Orange	470 / 200
Pepper (hot)	700 / 600
Pepper (sweet)	260 / 200
Potato	280 / 200
Tomato	100 / 90
Spinach	100 / 90

Jordan Times Tel: 667171

NDAY, APRIL 4, 1993

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Home News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 1993 3



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabarti Saturday meet with visiting Lebanese Labour Minister Abdullah Al Amin (Petra photo)

Sharif Zeid receives visiting Lebanese labour minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker received in his office Saturday the Lebanese Minister of Labour Abdullah Al Amin who is currently on a visit to the Kingdom to participate in the pan-Arab labour ministers conference due to open here Monday.

During the meeting, attended by Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti, the two sides reviewed Lebanese-Jordanian cooperation in labour-related affairs and economic fields.

Mr. Amin earlier Saturday met Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyeh and delivered a verbal message from Nabih Barri, the speaker of Lebanon's parliament.

The message concerned promoting Lebanese-Jordanian parliamentary cooperation.

Upon his arrival in Amman the Lebanese minister expressed hope that the coming labour ministers conference would re-establish solidarity among Arab states.

The conference is expected to tackle questions related to a pan-Arab employment strategy, the role of Arab women in development, the environment and occupational safety, among other important topics.

Addressing a press conference here Saturday in advance of the meeting, Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) Director General Baker Mohammad Rasoul said the Monday meeting will direct its attention to the affairs and conditions of Palestinian labourers and labour unions under Israeli rule.

Since its establishment, the ALO has been a staunch supporter of the rights of Palestinian workers, providing them with material assistance, Mr. Rasoul said.

Stressing that the ALO was also continuously concerned with the conditions of Arab labourers in other parts of the world, Mr. Rasoul added that some of these workers have been subjected to persecution in several countries.

The ALO, he said, has been in contact with countries that employ Arab workers, especially in Europe, in order to settle outstanding problems involving them.

Mr. Rasoul told the press that Monday's meeting should help remove negative elements that still obstruct solidarity among Arab states and encourage Arab countries to take collective action to deal with their common challenges.

Crown Prince urges Christians, Muslims to reinvigorate human rights discourse

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Friday firmly criticised the "contention that the Islamic world is the new monolith threatening world security."

Adding that "at a time when 80% of the world's refugees are Muslim... such claims are misguided at best," the Crown Prince, in a message to the International Christian-Islamic Conference in Vienna drew attention to the "human tragedy" in Bosnia joining that of Palestine.

Prince Hassan said the "new world order pays but scant attention" to this tragedy, and it has been historically proven that "appeasement pays the aggressor a handsome dividend."

In this context, the Crown Prince stressed to the participants of the 4-day meeting that "humanitarian aid should not become a substitute for human rights." He said that the right to the security of life was the point at which Christian and Muslim beliefs converge, above all others.

Following is the complete text of Prince Hassan's message entitled "Peace for Mankind: Principles, Problems and Perspectives for the Future."

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a matter of deep regret that I am unable to be with you at the start of this International Christian-Islamic Conference. Your meeting here in Vienna is an auspicious occasion, which I welcome and fully support.

Over a decade ago, through the Royal Academy for the Study of Islamic Civilisation, the Al-Bait Foundation, and the Arab Thought Forum in Amman, we embarked on the uncharted waters of inter-faith dialogue. It is a source of satisfaction and hope that the dialogue has become an integral and familiar part of the international discourse among adherents of these faiths. However, the heightened tension and the increasing polarisation affecting all religious communities of the world remain alarming, and in the next few minutes, I would like to present some perspectives on these issues from the Muslim world.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The radical, dogmatic, and divisive conduct associated with religious extremism is becoming increasingly evident, increasingly intense. This phenomenon is vis-



contemporary followers of the Abrahamic faiths. After the collapse of the Soviet Empire and the Communist regimes, repressed ethnic and religious minorities have asserted their primordial national identities in an attempt to reclaim their lost future. The dire consequences — ethnic cleansing, political polarisation and communal enmity — are the unacceptable face of the new world order.

In Europe, where more than six million Muslims live today, Muslim communities are becoming alienated and embattled. Reports of unprecedented atrocities have inflamed public opinion throughout the Islamic world, while adherents of other faiths have not been immune to the violence of religious and cultural intolerance. This must not be allowed to continue, for the deadly results of prejudice and alienation are all too familiar.

For Muslims everywhere, the conflict in Bosnia has joined that of Palestine: a human tragedy, to be sure, but a tragedy to which the new world order pays but scant attention. It has been demonstrated, time and again, that appeasement pays the aggressor a

handsome dividend. While Israeli violations of international law threaten the Middle East peace process, the spectre of further Serbian encroachment in Bosnia raises the possibility of a full-scale Balkan war, drawing in other powers and undermining stability and security across the European continent. It is imperative that humanitarian aid should not become a substitute for human rights, especially the most fundamentals of them all: the right to the security of life. And on this point above all others, our religious beliefs converge.

This Conference can emphasise the common moral, spiritual and ethical fundamentals of our faiths, highlighting areas of mutual concern and understanding. The Abrahamic tradition still represents the spiritual underpinning of the human rights discourse. The insights of our tradition can help to reinvigorate that discourse at a time when its very foundations are under threat. My hope and prayer is that international morality shall not fail humanity once again; and in this, your efforts may play a vital part. I wish your endeavours every success.

Jordan calls for pan-Arab rational land use strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Saturday called on Arab countries to adopt "an integrated pan-Arab strategy encompassing a multi-faceted system for the rational utilisation of soil."

The call was made by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Dr. Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat in an address to the opening session of a four-day pan-Arab conference on maintenance and development of pasture lands in the Arab World.

The question of desertification, which has been plaguing Jordan and the other Arab countries, was negatively affecting the food and social security of the Arab World and obstructing the implementation of its economic, social and agricultural development, the minister said.

Fighting off desertification and

maintaining and improving pasture lands can only be successful through joint Arab action, Dr. Tubeishat said.

Greening Arab lands and stemming the encroachment of the desert over arable areas has become a major concern of various nations, their decision-makers and planners in the environment fields, continued Dr. Tubeishat.

The Arab World suffers from the problem of desertification more than other countries since it lies within the semi-desert zones on the globe; therefore, there is need for the Arab countries to cooperate with the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), as well as other regional and international organisations, to deal with this issue, the minister urged.

A pan-Arab strategy to tackle desertification, he added, can cater to the needs of Arab states in their efforts to attain social and economic progress, Dr. Tubeishat added.

Arab League representative Ibrahim Ben Barakeh said that the Arab ministers attending the meeting will direct their attention towards combating desertification.

Six working papers will be reviewed by the ministers or their deputies; and apart from the desertification, they will address development of pasture land in Asia and Africa, as well as countries in the Horn of Africa and those of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The four-day conference has been organised in cooperation with the Arab League, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) as well as ICARDA.

PSD to close bridges to West Bank Tuesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Saturday announced in a statement that on Monday April 5 only 400 travellers will be allowed to cross the King Hussein Bridge to the Israeli occupied West Bank.

On Tuesday April 6 the King Hussein Bridge as well as the Prince Mohammad Bridge (used for trucks and commercial traffic) will be closed, the statement said, but gave no explanation for the temporary measures.

It said normal traffic across the bridges will resume on Wednesday April 7.

The PSD cautioned all travellers not to carry any non-

Jordanian Arab currencies on their visit to the occupied territories.

It said the Israeli authorities do not permit travellers to bring Arab currency into the occupied territories, except for Jordanian currency.

An Arab visitor is normally allowed to carry up to JD 2,000 or up to \$3,000 when crossing into the occupied lands.

Dr. Saadi, an expert on Israeli affairs, told the Jordan Times that Israel will Tuesday celebrate the feast of Pesah.

He said probably that was the reason for the temporary change in the travel rules across the bridges.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Minister receives visiting Tunisian teachers

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thougan Al Hindawi Saturday received at the ministry members of the teaching staff of the Arab School in Tunisia, which teaches the Jordanian school curricula. Mr. Hindawi stressed at the meeting that the Jordanian educational system adheres to the principles of the Arab Nation, affirming that it is far away from racism and factionalism. Mr. Hindawi voiced Jordan's pride in the comprehensive educational system which is open to modernism, international experiences and expertise. The Deputy Premier said the curricula taught at the Arab School in Tunisia is developed, and he stressed the ministry's support for the school in all educational fields. The school principal, Hamed Al Hurabi, who is heading the delegation, commended the care the school receives from the ministry. He said the delegation's visit to Jordan gave it the chance to be familiarised with pioneering educational projects in Jordan.

Amman stadium to get new lawn

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Youth Saleh Alshehaidat Saturday signed a contract with a local firm to plant grass at Amman International Stadium. The JD 160,000 contract provides for removing the artificial lawn covering the stadium's soccer field, placing a water drainage layer, a soil layer and laying a water pipe network.

Kuwaiti labour official arrives to attend meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Kuwaiti Ministry of Labour Under Secretary Mohammad Al Thamer arrived in Amman Saturday leading a Kuwaiti delegation that will participate in the Arab Labour Ministers Conference due to begin Monday. In an arrival statement Mr. Thamer said that he and the accompanying delegation came carrying the greeting of Islam from the country of peace to attend this important conference with open hearts and minds, hoping that "we will be successful in bolstering the joint Arab action."

Germany donates books to university

AMMAN (J.T.) — Matthias Meyer, charge d'affaires of the German embassy in Jordan, Saturday delivered a book donation worth DM 10,500 to Ali Mahafza, president of Yarmouk University in Irbid. The historical and archaeological publications are a donation to the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology of Yarmouk University and a sign of the excellent cultural relations between Jordan and the Federal Republic of Germany, said the embassy.

Visiting British university team visits Karak area

KARAK (Petra) — A delegation representing Reading University in the United Kingdom Saturday visited Al Rabba Centre for the Transfer of Science and Technology and was familiarised with studies conducted by the centre on cereals and fodder. The delegation, which includes 20 students specialised in agricultural guidance and rural development at the university's Faculty of Higher Studies, also visited the Princess Basma Social Services Centre in the Karak governorate, the sheep fattening project in Al Musheirfeh area and a bee-keeping project in Muab area.

Income tax filing deadline is April 30

AMMAN (Petra) — The Income Tax Department said in a statement that April 30 will be the last day for taxpayers to submit income statements for 1992. The department said taxpayers will be subject to fines ranging from two to 24 per cent on the total value of the estimated tax due.

Medical school admissions seminar opens

IRBID (Petra) — A seminar on admission to the medical schools at Arab universities opened at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) Saturday. The two-day seminar is attended by deans and teachers of medical faculties of universities in Jordan, Iraq, Bahrain, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt, in addition to representatives of the World Health Organisation (WHO).



Minister of Communications Jamal Al Saraikeh (second from right) Saturday meets with the visiting head of the International Civil Aviation Organisation Council, Assad Butet (third from right) and other civil aviation officials.

International civil aviation official commends Jordanian commitment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Communications Jamal Al Saraikeh Saturday said Jordan is "always ready to cooperate with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in all its operations, especially in ensuring civil aviation security and promoting air transport activities."

The minister was speaking at a meeting with Assad Butet, head of the Montreal-based ICAO Council, who is currently on a visit to Jordan to discuss cooperation in civil aviation affairs.

Discussions at the meeting included a review of the ICAO's new plans for civil aviation com-

munications via satellites.

The ICAO's general assembly had earlier approved the new project; and according to the Jordanian Civil Aviation Authority (JCAA) here, the ICAO is currently removing legal obstacles to the implementation of the scheme.

Dr. Suteit commended Jordan's active participation in ICAO activities and its adoption of advanced training for its civil aviation and airport services staff.

Jordan, he added, is regarded as one of the first Arab countries to be totally committed to working with regional and international

organisations involved in civil aviation and air transport.

The ICAO was founded in 1947 to develop techniques of international air navigation and to help in the planning and improvement of international air transport. ICAO works to ensure the safe and orderly growth of civil aviation, encourage skills in aircraft design and operation, improve airports and air navigation, prevent waste of resources, safeguard the rights of each contracting party to operate international air transport and prevent discriminatory practices.

Arab-American medics to hold convention in Amman in June

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab-American Medical Association (AAMA) holds its 11th International Medical Convention in Amman in June this year with an expected attendance of about 300 American physicians of Arab origin, according to AAMA Chairman and Convention President Youssef Hamati.

Dr. Hamati told the Jordan Times that the participants, who will gather here on June 20, for the five-day meeting will also tour archaeological and tourist attractions in the Kingdom including Petra and the Dead Sea.

More than 150 working papers will be submitted by the visiting Arab-American doctors and their counterparts from Jordan and other Arab states, Dr. Hamati said.

The convention will include 14 discussion sessions on topics ranging from plastic surgery to the treatment of kidney diseases, Dr. Hamati added.

During a recent visit to Amman, convention preparatory committee members met with His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to discuss the meeting's agenda, he said.

"By holding this convention in Amman we aim at further bolstering medical cooperation between the United States and Jordan and creating opportunities for Jordanian doctors to acquire higher training in the U.S.," Dr. Hamati said.

He said the AAMA was founded in 1974 as a national non-profit, non-political, educational and charitable organisation; its 1,500 members are medical professionals of Arab descent.

The Michigan-based AAMA has 22 chapters in U.S. states, he added.

According to Dr. Hamati, the AAMA aims to encompass a wide range of professional, charitable, educational and cultural activities.

He said it enhances the medical knowledge of its members by supporting continuing medical education programmes and is committed to developing programmes that enrich the lives of Arab medical professionals and their families in North America and in the Arab World.

Dr. Hamati said the AAMA provides financial support for several university-affiliated medical institutions and also sponsors educational programmes for physicians and medical technicians from the Arab countries.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of pottery and ceramics by Sa'eda Al Bitar Ghanem at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery, 1st Circle, opposite the Iraqi Embassy.
- Exhibition of paintings entitled "Meditating Land and Man" by plastic artist Hussein Da'sa at Baladna Art Gallery.
- Exhibition of paintings by artist Mohammad Nasrallah at Al Balqa Gallery, Fuhes City.
- Art exhibition by Nawwaf Al Bukhari at the Phoenix Art Gallery.

LECTURE

- Art exhibition entitled "The Legend of Petra II" by artist Suha Shoman at the National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- Lecture entitled "Environmental Law after United Nations Conference on Environment and Development" by Dr. Lothar Gundling of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, at the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution at 5:30 p.m.

FILM

- Marilyn Monroe's 1957 film "The Prince and the Showgirl" at the American Centre at 5 p.m. (117 min.)

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Listen to what the voters say

AS MEMBERS of the Lower House of Parliament return to their constituencies to launch their fresh election campaigns, they need to take notice of the findings of the first opinion poll of its kind in the country: Jordanians are looking for representatives who can address their real, every day problems and not ideologists, theoreticians and politicians who ponder the abstract and preach the notions.

The poll, conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies of the University of Jordan, showed that politics figure low on the majority of Jordanians' list of priorities, that extremism is almost non-existent and that ideological beliefs are hardly a factor in their voting pattern.

What Jordanians want more, shows the poll, is better living standards and schools and hospitals and other services that many lack and urgently need.

Only 28 per cent of the electoral were satisfied with their deputies' performance on the district level. That says that people believe members of the Lower House did little to address the pressing issues to which they attach the greatest importance. It says that lengthy speeches and fiery rhetoric are tunes to which Jordanians listen no more, that four years of parliamentary life, and increased economic hardships have altered their priorities.

The poll also showed general voter apathy and an astonishing dearth of knowledge of what the Lower House has achieved. But regardless of the factors to which these social ills are attributed, relief is found in the responses that the trend is changing.

According to the poll, twice the voter turnout of 1989 is expected to be registered in the next parliamentary elections this summer.

And as deputies rejoice in the fact that 71 per cent of the 1,197 people polled find the performance of the House in general satisfactory, they should remember what these voters want when they start bidding for their votes.

That parliamentary life has been institutionalised is a fact that the poll strongly established. That deputies need to change to accommodate this new reality is essential for its success and continuation.

The Parliament elected in 1989 had its achievements as well as shortcomings. For its achievements we give it credit and for its failure we voice our criticism. But we still believe that the most important factor is that the parliamentary life has developed strong roots in society.

The task of nurturing these roots will soon become the duty of the next elected deputies. And the duty of each Jordanian is to make sure that those who sit under the domed roof of the House are best suited for the difficult job of dealing with the country's economic, social and political ills.

The findings of the poll are indeed telling. Deputies, future candidates and voters should carefully listen.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WE HAD believed that the United States will place the role of a full partner in the peace making process as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher had declared during his recent tour to the region, said Al Dustour daily Saturday. We had thought that Washington would transform its policies with a view to helping the Middle East live in peace and security because the U.S. is the sole superpower which bears responsibility for world peace, the paper added. But it said that Mr. Christopher's statement before the American Congress on Thursday dashed all hopes because it showed beyond doubt that the U.S. administration plans to play the role of full partner on the side of Israel. In his statement, Mr. Christopher voiced President Bill Clinton's administration total defiance of the Arabs and expressed Washington's continued enmity to justice and right, thus opening the door for direct confrontation with the Arab and Islamic worlds, the paper continued. The U.S. state secretary has openly unveiled the Clinton administration's support for Israel by announcing plans to continue providing the Jewish state with \$34 billion in financial aid on an annual basis, and endeavours to finance the settlement of new Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab lands, said the paper. Furthermore, the paper said, the U.S. administration is not concealing its plans to force the oil rich Arab states to provide help to Russia to support its shaky economy as a price for America's support for Kuwait and the Gulf states in the Gulf war against Iraq.

A columnist in Al Dustour criticised the 14 political parties which are now legalised in Jordan, saying that they have to-date failed to interact with the public. Taher Al Udwan said that none of the political parties licensed in Jordan has conducted any campaign or organised a rally in support of the 1.5 million Palestinians under siege in the occupied lands, nor has any party expressed opposition to the government's decision to increase by 25 per cent the customs duty on imported paper although newsprint is a vital material for the parties' publications, said Mr. Udwan. The writer said none of the licensed parties has yet interacted with the public and reflected its concern; and it seems that the parties are spending a long holiday away from issues of concern to the Jordanian people. The writer said that, for instance, the parties should have followed up on the question of the creation of a teachers' union, and should have taken up other important questions of concern to the public to prove their interaction with the political life and to enhance the country's democracy. The writer said the political parties ought to show full integration with the political, cultural and social life in Jordan and to make themselves felt by all sectors.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Sales tax: Social considerations

SALES TAX caused an outcry based on the wrong impression that it will hurt consumers and domestic industry and increase the tax burden.

In fact, the proposed sales tax law is a reform of a present tax, namely consumption tax. It is only more just than the old tax that it will replace. Sales tax will be applicable to all commodities that are currently subject to consumption tax, and with almost the same rates and sometimes lower rates. But the number of commodities will be increased in order to expand the tax base, and to distribute the tax burden more fairly on more commodities and services.

The authorities confirmed repeatedly that the proceeds of the new sales tax will not be substantially more than the proceeds of the present consumption tax, which are running now at 25 per cent higher than in the same months of last year, without any change in the rates, the reason being higher volume of production and domestic consumption.

Sales tax will reach new groups of tax payers which consumption tax did not reach before, such as lawyers, auditors, architects and professionals in general. There is no reason to discriminate against goods in favour of services, especially when our planners complain that the service sector in Jordan is inflated, and that the production of commodities should be favoured, or at least not discriminated against.

Sales tax will definitely have its economic and social impact. It is one of the effective tools to redistribute national income by charging importers, industrialists, professionals and consequently the big consumers in the cities to finance the state's free services such as education and health. It takes from those who can afford to pay to give to those who need the government's hand, especially the needy and the villagers.

Industrial sector as a whole will not be hurt by sales tax. On the contrary, it will benefit at the expense of imports, which will be

required to pay the same rate, but calculated on the full cost of imports including custom duty, which was previously exchanged under consumption tax. The final result is an improved protection to local production which will consequently be able to generate more jobs.

Importers, and not industrial producers, are justified to make a noise and complain. They are better off with the current consumption tax, which favours imports over domestic products. But they should admit that it is the right economic policy to encourage domestic production and reduce imports for the sake of a healthier economy.

The average citizen will not be hurt by the sales tax because the overall burden will not increase and thus the cost of living will not be affected. If the prices of certain commodities rise, the prices of others may decline.

It is in the best interest of the majority of citizens to have a sound taxation system and a more balanced budget. That is the only way to enable the state to provide the badly needed services to the poor and less privileged, who depend heavily on the state's schools, clinics and hospitals, and depend for their income on salaries and wages earned by teachers, soldiers, policemen and others who work for the government. If tax proceeds drop, government services will follow and the main losers will be the poor and less privileged groups in the countryside and the badia, who are required to pay very little sales tax but will enjoy more services provided by the government.

Sales tax is not a blind tax; it can take the social considerations into account. No wonder that luxuries will pay more than the general rate, while basic food, medicine and the supplies of babies and students will be zero rated.

The rich raise objections against the sales tax based on selfish calculations, the poor raise objections against the sales tax based on misinformation and lack of calculations.



Bosnia's dream of peace

By David Crary
The Associated Press

SARAJEVO — Before their nightmare began, most of Sarajevo's people cared little for politics or soldiering. Now, those peaceful days seem like dreams from another world.

A year ago, Adnan Dizdovic was a successful surgeon with a stock portfolio and talents that could have taken him anywhere. Now, his home is rubble and he drinks before bed to help forget the long hours, month after month, of death and amputations.

A year ago, Amela Muratovic and her husband believed life was hard because money problems threatened plans for a seaside vacation. Now, the war has taken their possessions and pride. They depend on the charity of neighbours and wear borrowed clothes.

"When I look back, I see we had a super life," she said.

A year ago, Goran Mirkovic was a camera salesman, a happy husband and father. He was a Serb who married a Muslim, who chose to stay in Sarajevo to help defend the multiethnic city against fellow Serbs. Now, his widow tells Mirkovic's son he died "fighting for his town."

It is hard to find a Sarajevo without such tales after a year of horrors, dashed hopes and medieval indignities imposed on a cosmopolitan people who thought they were part of the modern world.

Almost everyone has lost a family member or friend in shell-

On April 6, 1992, Serb snipers fired on a peace rally in Sarajevo. Thus began a war that has killed more than 100,000 people, created at least 1 million refugees and added the chilling term "ethnic cleansing" to the language of inhumanity.

ing, sniper fire or battlefield combat. The necessities of a modern city — running water, electricity, telephone and links to the outside — are rarities or gone entirely.

Dr. Dizdovic, the 44-year-old surgeon, is among the lucky, as the lucky are defined in Sarajevo. His wife and child are unscathed. Although his house was smashed and burned by artillery fire in early March, he saved a few precious mementos and photographs.

But this member of the elite, once captain of Yugoslavia's Olympic handball team, must trudge to and from a distant communal spigot each day, like his neighbours, to haul water home on a wooden sled so his family can cook, bathe and flush the toilet of their borrowed apartment.

He still takes pride in his work, which has become an endless parade of wounded soldiers and maimed civilians. On some days, he has worked 12 or 14 hours without rest.

"I'm used to the soldiers," he said. "But when I see a wounded child or old woman, it really hurts

me."

Before the war, Amela and Edin Muratovic thought of themselves as a struggling young couple. Edin's earnings as a newspaper technician were barely enough to afford a car or out-of-town holidays.

He is a front-line soldier now. Amela and their two sons live in an apartment vacated by a fleeing Serb family. Serb artillery destroyed their own home May 13, killing Edin's father. Everything they owned was burned.

"The worst thing for us was to have to use someone else's furniture and clothes, and see photographs of them around the house," Amela said. "We don't have one picture of us, of our childhood. They were all destroyed."

Amela was pregnant when they moved. The baby, Eldin, was born in October.

"We've never had electricity or water since he was born," Amela said. She makes diapers from plastic bags.

Food provided by relief agencies is enough to sustain life, but is tedious: rice, pasta. They have no seasonings and cannot afford the black market.

"Bread" Amela said wistfully. "Before the war, I used to throw it away."

Arman, almost 2, is bored with the food and must do without milk. His mother and grandmother shed tears of shame as they told how a 19-year-old neighbour had helped them survive the winter by bringing occasional gifts of food.

What does the young mother miss most?

"Freedom. Freedom to take a walk with my children. When I decided to have children, I imagined taking walks with them. Now, it's too dangerous to go past the front of the building. This is Arman's small world."

Goran Mirkovic, 29, was killed in February while fighting with a front-line police unit.

His widow, Ada, and Dan, their 6-year-old son, flipped through a photo album: Goran at his 28th birthday party, grinning; a picture of him at the seaside, clutching his teddy bear, when he was 4.

Ada married Goran in 1985 despite bitter objections from her Muslim parents, whom she rarely sees.

Many of Sarajevo's Serbs fled when the war began and joined Serb nationalist forces besieging the city. But Goran and his brother, Bojan, volunteered for a police unit on combat duty.

"With Goran, the first thing you think of is his smile, his jokes," Bojan said. "He used to say he was a good Serb fighter, but on the wrong side."

Important dates in Sarajevo siege

The Associated Press

April 6, 1992 — The European Community recognises Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Serb nationalists block Vrbanka bridge in central Sarajevo and Serb snipers fire on peace demonstrators in central Sarajevo, killing five and wounding 30. Bosnian government declares state of emergency and curfew in Sarajevo.

April 7 — United States recognises Bosnia. First shelling of Sarajevo's old city by Serbs in surrounding hills.

May 1-2 — Shelling intensifies: post office, tram system, brewery wrecked.

May 3 — Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic taken hostage by Yugoslav troops on returning from peace

talks in Lisbon.

May 4 — Mr. Izetbegovic freed. Muslims ambush Yugoslav army convoy in central Sarajevo, at least four soldiers killed.

May 5 — Yugoslav army relinquishes command of its estimated 100,000 troops in Bosnia, effectively creating a Bosnian Serb army.

May 12 — European Community evacuates peace monitors to Split, Croatia, after fighting intensifies.

May 13 — United Nations follows suit, withdrawing most of its Sarajevo staff.

May 22 — Yugoslav army agrees to withdraw from Sarajevo barracks.

May 27 — A mortar shell strikes line of Sarajevo's waiting for bread, killing 16. More die later.

May 30 — United Nations imposes sanctions on a new, smaller Yugoslavia made up of Serbia and Montenegro, for fomenting Bosnian warfare.

June 6 — Last Yugoslav troops leave downtown Sarajevo barracks, regroup at Lukavica barracks on southern outskirts.

June 29 — Peacekeepers hoist U.N. flag at Sarajevo Airport after Serbs leave. Humanitarian airlift begins.

July 2 — First large contingent of U.N. peacekeepers — Canadians — arrives in Sarajevo.

Aug. 2 — Two children die in bus as children's Embassy

Charity tries to evacuate orphans.

Aug. 4 — Children's funeral shelled.

Aug. 26 — Yugoslav peace conference opens in London.

Sept. 3 — Airlift suspended after Italian relief plane shot down on approach to Sarajevo. Four crew members killed.

Oct. 3 — Airlift resumes. Dec. 31 — Sarajevo's jeep U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali on visit to Sarajevo.

Jan. 8, 1993 — Deputy Prime Minister Haskija Turajlic killed by Serb soldier while travelling in U.N. armoured vehicle from Sarajevo Airport.

March 12 — Two Bosnian Serb soldiers go on trial in first war crimes prosecution of the war.

March 21 — Serb gunners inflict their heaviest bombardment of the year on Sarajevo. U.N. observers say many of the estimated 2,400 rounds hit residential areas.

Losing the initiative

Opponents of peace talks gaining upper hand over Rabin

By Jack Redden
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has fallen hostage to the worst cycle of violence since the Palestinian uprising began five years ago.

The initiative is now in the hands of militant Palestinians attacking Israelis and Israelis who are demanding retribution.

The Rabin government and Palestinians under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are committed to seeking a negotiated peace to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But both must now act to appease headline elements which never wanted the U.S.-brokered peace talks in the first place.

Mr. Rabin ordered two million Arabs confined indefinitely inside the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip after two Israeli policemen were killed Tuesday.

The decision, made at an emergency cabinet meeting, reflects growing public alarm over Arab attacks.

The policemen's deaths brought to 13 the number of Israelis killed this month and while Arabs have suffered thousands of casualties in recent years — at least 76 dead since December alone — Israelis are not used to a daily television diet of dead and wounded Jews.

Sealing off the occupied land might provide a lull in attacks inside Israel. But most assaults on Israelis are inside the occupied territories and even Mr. Rabin concedes closure orders increase the Palestinian poverty that fuels the unrest.

The surge in violence was sparked by Mr. Rabin's decision to expel 415 alleged Palestinian militants to Lebanon on December 17 in reprisal for the killing of an Israeli soldier.

Middle East peace talks were stopped in their tracks and the issue has dominated the political

agenda ever since.

Palestinian negotiators and Arab governments have still not decided whether to attend the next round planned for Washington on April 20.

The Palestinians fear they will lose credibility if they go back to the talks while fellow Palestinians remain in exile in Lebanon, even though they reject their militant beliefs.

Mr. Rabin faces a growing political challenge from the right. Binyamin Netanyahu took over last week as head of the opposition Likud party with a pledge to bring down the government long before its term ends in 1996.

Activists from among the 100,000 Jewish settlers living on Arab land have recovered from the shock of the Likud government's defeat last June and stage nightly demonstrations against Mr. Rabin.

They hope to stop peace talks by undermining his coalition.

"The main problem is the government's policy," said former police minister Ronni Milo of Likud.

"Its attitude (to violence) ... the compromising attitude and the attempt to tell the public in Israel that if we made political concessions this will bring us quiet and peace."

Mr. Rabin's options to regain the initiative are limited.

To guarantee more peace talks he will have to make a gesture which will save face for the Palestinians.

That would draw attacks from Israeli rightists who already accuse him of endangering public safety, a charge reinforced this week by gory media pictures of an Israeli with a knife sticking in his back.

He could try to crush Palestinian resistance but his efforts to do so at the start of the intifada, when he was defence minister, failed and drew international condemnation.

Impatient youth

Young Egyptians yearn for change as instability plagues their country

By Neil MacFarquhar
The Associated Press

ASSIUT — Until he began attending Al Rahma Mosque about a year ago, medical student Mohammed Abdullah spent most of his free time studying anatomy or playing pickup games of soccer.

Now he gets up before dawn each day to attend prayers at the mosque controlled by the radical Al Gamaa Al Islamiya, or the Islamic Group.

"At the government mosques they tell you that Egypt is rich, successful, there are no problems," said Mr. Abdullah, 22. "You feel here that they talk more about the problems of the people — no jobs, rising prices, corruption."

This blunt appraisal of grinding poverty has convinced thousands of Egyptian youths to follow the call by fundamentalist Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman to try to overthrow President Hosni Mubarak's secular government.

The blind Abdul Rahman, the Islamic group's spiritual leader, is suspected in Egypt of backing terrorism and is fighting extradition from the United States, where he has been living in self-exile since 1990.

Four of the five suspects detained so far in the Feb. 26 bombing of New York's World Trade Centre, which killed six and injured over 1,000, prayed at the preacher's storefront mosque in Jersey City, N.J.

In Egypt, the sheikh's followers see no hope in their classrooms bursting with pupils using outdated textbooks, or from fetid alleys in cramped villages where most people don't have jobs.

The Islamic group offers cheap medical care and food to the poor, but welfare is not its main draw.

Followers in this southern town — a stronghold of militant fundamentalism — and nearby villages say joining the group allows them to dream of a better future, and that violence appears the fastest way to achieve it.

The militants want to implement Islamic laws which they think will yield a more equitable distribution of wealth and greater respect for religion. They say the lack of real opposition parties makes violence their only option.

They want to pull Egypt out of what they see as a client relationship with the United States, which provides more than \$2 billion annually in military aid to its most important Arab ally.

They opposed Egypt's participation in the anti-Iraq coalition during the 1991 Gulf war.

Militant-sponsored violence has already killed 54 people this year, including a police officer in a Cairo bombing. They are also taking aim at the vital tourism industry, which earned \$3 billion annually and attracted some 3 million people each year.

Three tourists have died in militant attacks since October, and the number of visitors is believed to have fallen by at least 50 per cent since then. Tourist revenues are believed to be down by \$1 billion.

The loud voice and the enthusiasm is attractive to some youth because they think their aims will be reached quickly," said Mohammed Habib, a geology professor at Assiut University and a leader of the long-established Muslim Brotherhood.

Estimates of the number of Islamic Group followers range up to 200,000, a fraction of Egypt's 58 million people. Both leaders and followers are usually in their 20s.

Many Egyptians say foreigners are taking the group much too seriously. Just as Assiut University used to be a centre for leftists, they say Islam is the latest fad.

"It is not a mafia spreading into everything. Taken against the whole population, you can barely count them as one finger on your hand," said Dr. Sami Issa, a pharmacy owner.

But the government isn't taking them lightly. Many Al Gamaa followers are underground due to a 15-month crackdown on Islamic extremists that has left 153 people dead.

Al Gamaa adherents claim the country's economic problems would be solved if the rich were forced to pay an Islamic tax each year that could be distributed to the poor. In a country where wealth and contacts are in the hands of a tiny elite, they despise the connections that are needed to get jobs.

One of their heroes is Omar Ibn Al Khattab, the second caliph, or ruler of the Islamic faith, after the death of Prophet Mohammed. Islamic history has it that he lived in a hovel and during a drought ate only oil.

"We are not asking Mubarak to live in a hovel, or eat only oil, but let the people eat ... they save the best food for the tourists before the Egyptian people. This is wrong," said Ahmad Ali, 29, an engineering student.

The militants want tourists to respect Islamic dress codes, and feel the loss in tourism revenue will only lighten the pockets of the elite. However, about 1 million Egyptians live directly off the tourism industry.

Majority says House did well

(Continued from page 1)

Masri (Independent, National Bloc), Leith Shbeilat (Independent Islamist), Fakhri Kassar (Leftist, Christian), Anwar Al Hadid (Independent), Ahmad Al Abbadi (Independent), Mohammad Azaideh (Muslim Brotherhood) and Abdul Hafeez Alawi (Muslim Brotherhood).

Irbid: Ahmad Kofahi (Muslim Brotherhood), Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh (Independent), Mohammad Alawneh (Independent Islamist), Thougad Hindawi (Independent Constitutional Bloc) and Husni Shiyab (Leftist).

Jerash: Hussein Mjalli (Pan-Arab Nationalist), Ajloun: Ahmad Annab (Independent), Ramtha and Beni Kenana: Salim Zoubi (Pan-Arab Nationalist), and Mohammad Dardour (Independent).

Balqa: Abdul Latif Arabiyat (Speaker of the Lower House (Brotherhood), Abdullah Ensour (Independent, National Bloc), Ibrahim Kreisat (Brotherhood), and Samir Kassar (Independent, Christian).

Karak: Ahmad Kafawin (Brotherhood), Jamal Saraiheh (Independent Islamist), and Mohammad Hweimel (Independent Islamist).

Ma'an: Abdul Karim Kabari (Independent National Bloc), Zarqa: Deeb Anis (Brotherhood), Salameh Al Ghweiri (Independent, National Bloc), Abdul Basji Jammo (Independent, Islamist), and Bassam Haddadin (Leftist, Christian).

Mafrq: Abdul Karim Dughni (Leftist, Democratic Bloc), Tafleh: Abdullah Akayleh (Brotherhood).

Bedouin of the north: Sa'ad Hayel Srouf (Independent, National Bloc), Bedouin of the south: Jamal Kreisha (Independent).

(A footnote accompanying these findings warns: These results should be handled carefully since the sample for this survey was selected according to the government's distribution and not according to parliamentary constituencies. At the same time, the number of respondents in certain constituencies was relatively small and respondents established their judgements with regard to the current deputies and in total isolation of any new candidates who consider running for the 1993 elections).

On the whole, 72.8 per cent of the respondents said they were satisfied with the performance of the House in general, 20.8 per cent said they were dissatisfied, and 6.3 per cent said they did not have any opinion.

But the voters' satisfaction with the House did not extend to their respective deputies. Only 28.7 per cent of the audience said they were happy with the representatives of their constituencies in the House.

It indicated that a majority of the voters appreciated the parliamentary record of deputies, but not necessarily from their respective constituencies, and gave a thumbs-down to some of their own.

In Amman Governorate, 73 per cent of the respondents said they were satisfied with the performance of the House, but only 26.2 per cent were satisfied with their respective deputies' performances; 20.9 per cent said they were dissatisfied and the rest had no opinion.

Similarly, 70.7 per cent of Zarqa respondents gave an overall approval of the House performance (21.5 per cent said they were dissatisfied and 7.7 per cent had no opinion), while only 22.7 per cent said they were satisfied with their respective deputies.

In Irbid, it was 71.2 per cent satisfied with the House, 21.8 per cent dissatisfied and 7 per cent had no opinion; only 31.3 per cent said they approved of their deputies' performance.

Deputies from Mafrq and in the south appeared to be the most popular among their constituents. Those surveyed in Mafrq gave a 45 per cent approval for their deputies (83.3 per cent of the House), followed by 42.6 per cent in Karak (80.3 per cent of the House), 39.7 per cent in Ma'an (79.3 per cent of the House) and 35.7 per cent in Tafleh (92.9 per cent of the House).

Balqa deputies got good rating from only 27.3 per cent, while the overall approval of the House performance in the governorate was 62.4 per cent.

Overall, 73.5 per cent of the males and 72.2 per cent of the females interviewed approved the performance of the House; 21.7 per cent of the males and 19.9 per cent of the females were not satisfied.

In the 19-24 age group, 72.6 per cent gave good marks to the House; it was 74.8 per cent in the 25-44 bracket, 74.6 per cent in

the 35-44 bracket and 69.9 per cent of those over 45.

The poll found that 23.8 per cent of voters will give priority to social and other services that would be secured by candidates while voting in the next elections, followed by 18.5 per cent who favour deputies who express "courageous views," 4.8 per cent favour harmony in thinking and electoral programmes, and 3.5 per cent favour kinship (family and tribal affiliations).

This particular finding suggested that there has been little change in the tradition of "patronage" with a direct positive effect on services in constituencies being the key element in voters' consideration.

It also suggests that outspoken candidates seen as dedicated to improving the lot of their constituencies and having a record of honesty stand the best chance to enter Parliament. By extension, it also means that groups espousing political ideologies and religious principles as their platforms could be sidelined come election time.

The bulk of those interviewed was in Amman Governorate with 39.6 per cent, followed by Zarqa (15.1 per cent), Irbid (23.7 per cent), Mafrq (four per cent), Balqa 6.4 per cent, Karak (5.1 per cent), Tafleh (1.2 per cent) and Ma'an (4.8 per cent).

The target audience was asked to answer a 66-point questionnaire which included characteristics of respondents — sex, age group, education and employment status — assessment of the performance of the Lower House elected in 1989, general evaluation of individual deputies, voting considerations, views on the present elections law and constituency structure, awareness of legislation, democratisation procedures, and participation in active political life.

The survey found that 76 per cent of the respondents consider casting their votes in the next elections; 18 per cent said they would not vote and six per cent were undecided (less than 45 per cent of the eligible electorate went to the polls in the last elections, held in November 1989).

In a general context, the poll found that the belief that the Jordan electorate is highly involved in politics is unfounded. Only 1.4 per cent of the respondents said they were affiliated to political parties and 6.5 per cent indicated they might join parties in the future.

Over one-third — 36 per cent — said they were willing to take part in a demonstration or sit-in if and when necessary, with those in the governorates of Ma'an and Karak as well as Amman registering the highest interest in such activities.

Although preliminary findings of the survey were processed immediately after the field study, the Centre for Strategic Studies held back the full details of the survey until after the 11th Parliament recessed. While no explanation was available on the delay, it was believed that the centre did not want to find itself caught in the centre-stage of a political debate triggered by the findings of the poll.

Dr. Mustafa Hamareh, the young energetic director of the centre, would only say that "we thought it would be more appropriate if the results were released after Parliament recessed."

"The centre is a strictly non-partisan, non-political academic institution and wanted to devote enough time for analysis," he said.

Dr. Hamareh, professor of history who took over as director of the centre in April last year, said work got under way on the survey in June and the actual interviews were conducted during the third week of January by a team of university students supervised by faculty members.

Credible observers noted that it was the first time that the centre had undertaken a project of this magnitude and said that a new vision rooted in modernity and change is guiding its work.

Of the target audience, 23.5 per cent were in the 19-24 age range, 29.6 per cent between 25 and 35, 10.1 per cent between 35 and 44 and 25.8 per cent over 45 years. The rest did not indicate their age in the questionnaire.

Asked how "scientific" the poll was, Dr. Hamareh said: "The target audience and population sample was randomly selected and was derived from details offered by the Department of Statistics."

He noted that the number of surveyed was higher than those covered in any such previous poll and their geographical locations were widespread.

"The questionnaire was prepared by specialists in sociology and political science, and statisticians, and the audience was selected at random," he said.

Furthermore, he said, "Every respondent was asked clear questions with no ambiguity, and their answers were closely studied and analysed by experts in their fields."

Following is a summarised version of the study:



Mustafa Hamareh

— 62 per cent said that the House had relatively discharged its mission in following up government activities.

— 44 per cent said that the House had relatively fulfilled its mission in fighting corruption.

— 66 per cent said that the House had fulfilled its mission observing the law.

— 48 per cent said that the House had fulfilled its mission in following up the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

— 60 per cent said that members of the House have not done enough to maintain contacts with their electorates.

— 51 per cent said that members of the House have not undertaken a sufficient role in following the citizens' urgent demands/problems.

— 47 per cent said that members of the House have not worked hard towards tackling the economic problem.

— 39 per cent said that members of the House have not undertaken sufficient role with regard to expediting amendments to certain laws.

— 46 per cent of the respondents said that deputies have not undertaken positive activities as far as their respective constituencies are concerned.

— 49 per cent of the respondents said that they will re-vote some or all of current deputies of their respective constituency in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

— 35 per cent of the respondents said that they will not re-vote any of the current deputies in their constituency.

— 51 per cent of the respondents said that deputies failed to accomplish their expected duties in their districts.

— 70 per cent of the respondents, who earlier filed demands, said that deputies have dealt negatively with their demands.

— 50.5 per cent are in favour of the present election arrangements.

— 26.3 per cent voiced their satisfaction with the present constituency and seat numbers as well as with the criteria of division, provided that each voter casts his or her vote for one candidate only.

— 15.2 per cent of the respondents are in favour of 80 parliamentary constituencies rather than 20. They also prefer that each voter casts his or her vote for just one candidate, in the constituency.

— 1.5 per cent suggested other methods.

— 6.4 per cent said that they did not know.

— 48.2 per cent preferred a higher voting age.

— 40.6 per cent preferred a lower voting age.

— 51 per cent believe that the number of the present parliamentary constituencies is adequate.

— 57 per cent believe that the number of the present parliamentary seats is adequate.

— 50 per cent believe that the present criteria for division of constituencies is adequate.

Among those who answered the contrary, 82 per cent are in favour of more parliamentary constituencies, while 67 per cent prefer an increase in parliamentary seats.

— 70 per cent said the current Lower House is, one way or another, representative to all social strata.

— 18.2 per cent said the House does not much represent all social strata. The reason behind this, they believe, is the elections law upon which the 1989 parliamentary elections were based.

— 38.6 per cent were aware that amendments were introduced to some of the clauses of the Political Parties' Law, whereas 32.8 per cent were not, and 28.6 per cent did not know.

Between 13.4 and 24.2 per cent of the respondents said that they were aware of some specific changes that were introduced to the parties' law, of whom more than 70 per cent described these changes as "fundamental."

On martial law regulations, 62.7 per cent of the respondents were knowledgeable about the abolition of the regulations, of whom about 31.6 to 40.7 per cent were knowledgeable about the contents of the clauses that reject appeals to the military governor's orders and the right to arrest and detain any person.

As for the old Defence Law, 20 to 52 per cent of the respondents said that they were aware of some of its articles.

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Udwan replaces Feid as PSD chief

(Continued from page 1)

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said a Royal Decree endorsed a Cabinet decision to accept Gen. Feid's request to be relieved of his post and be retired, and another decree appointed Maj.-Gen. Udwan as the new PSD chief.

The decisions take effect as of April 4, 1993.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times that Gen. Feid will be posted abroad as ambassador.

King Hussein Saturday sent a letter to Gen. Feid commending his efforts in leading the PSD and his distinguished efforts while in service.

"When you were chosen to lead the PSD on Sept. 21, 1989, it was because of what we knew about you of high efficiency, distinguished military service, ability to organise and readiness to give... in addition to your courage and loyalty to your homeland since the time you had the honour of joining our courageous Armed Forces until today," the King said in his letter.

"The bravery you showed in the eternal Karameh Battle, in which you were seriously injured, had the greatest influence on me and on all Jordanians," the King added.

"As we still remember these characteristics and stands, we also appreciate your incessant efforts in leading the PSD, in terms of training, developing and modernising, where you supplied it with all efficiencies of the youth of our country — who are able to carry out their sacred duty in protecting the homeland and its citizens and combating crimes of all kinds and from all sources."

"Now that you have chosen to leave your post to have some rest, I am glad to express to you my thanks for your great role and for

the second checkpoint, soldiers fired in the air, then at the wheels of the car which came to a halt about 200 metres from the troops, the radio said, quoting a senior army officer.

One of the hitchhikers got out of Masika's car and fired a shot, the radio said. He reportedly told police later the shot was meant as a signal for the patrol to stop shooting.

But the soldiers at the checkpoint believed they were dealing with an armed assailant and continued to fire, stopping only when they heard shouts in Hebrew, the radio said.

The shots killed Masika and seriously wounded the woman and another soldier. The third soldier was not injured. The radio said the trunk and rear door of Masika's car were riddled with bullets.

After Masika's car drove past

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Barkley leads Suns past Celtics

BOSTON (R) — Charles Barkley scored 37 points and pulled down 11 rebounds as the Phoenix Suns held on to stop the streaking Boston Celtics, 118-114 on Friday.

Kevin Johnson added 25 points, eight rebounds and dished out nine assists for the Suns, who halted Boston's winning streak at nine games.

The win was the sixth in a row for the league-leading Suns and their club-record 24th road victory of the season.

Reggie Lewis had 32 points and Xavier McDaniel 25 for Boston, which lost for the fourth time in 20 games.

In Miami, Patrick Ewing had 26 points and 22 rebounds to help the red-hot New York Knicks beat the Heat, 123-107 in a game marred by 10 technical fouls.

Doc Rivers, who recently returned to the Knicks' lineup after a two-game suspension for fighting, received two technical fouls and was ejected from the game.

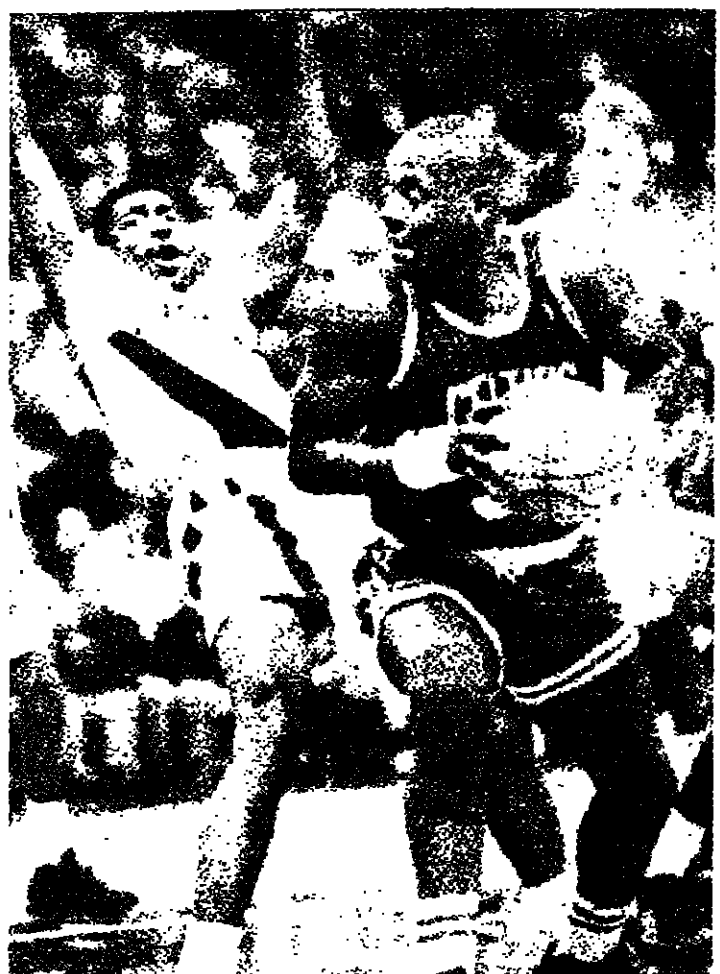
In Chicago, the Bulls remained one game back of the Knicks for the top playoff spot in the east when Michael Jordan scored 40 points to lead the NBA champions to a 118-105 win over the New Jersey Nets.

Derrick Coleman scored 30 points to pace the Nets, who remained one-half game behind Boston for the fourth playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

The Nets were playing without injured starters Drazen Petrovic, Kenny Anderson and Chris Dudley.

At San Antonio, David Robinson scored 39 points and had six blocked shots to lead the Spurs to a 108-101 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Sean Elliott scored 21 points and Dale Ellis added 18 for the



Celtics Xavier McDaniel makes room as his opponent falls backward.

Spurs.

In Los Angeles, Danny Manning scored 29 points and Mark Jackson added 20 points and 11 assists as the Clippers snapped Atlanta's six-game winning streak with a 111-99 win.

At Charlotte, Kendall Gill hit a layup with 12 seconds left and Alonzo Mourning blocked Terrell Brandon's shot with two seconds remaining as the Hornets edged the Cleveland Cavaliers, 114-113.

At Detroit, Joe Dumars scored 35 points to lead the Pistons to a 109-100 victory over the Sacramento Kings and preserve their hope of clinching a playoff berth. Indiana stayed two games ahead of Detroit by beating the

Roma face another scandal

MILAN (AP) — Two years after Argentine superstar Diego Maradona was banned from the game because of cocaine, the Italian League is bracing for another drug scandal.

News reports are saying AS Roma forward and Maradona's fellow Argentine national team striker Claudio Caniggia has likewise tested positive for cocaine in a random drug test following a league match last month.

Maradona, who then played for Napoli, was suspended from soccer for 15 months and earlier this season returned with Sevilla, of Spain.

Italian soccer officials have confirmed a Roma player tested positive but refused to identify him pending a second test Monday on the split urine sample.

But the news shook the league and could be another serious blow to Roma, already battling to concentrate following the arrest of the team president in Italy's wide-ranging corruption scandal.

The report over shadowed this weekend's games, the 26th round of the first-division campaign virtually wrapped up for weeks by a suddenly vulnerable-looking AC Milan.

Napoli visits the "ailing" Milan powerhouse at San Siro stadium. Milan, Parma and Juventus are being allowed to play their league games one day ahead of the regular schedule to give players an extra day of rest prior to next week's European Cup matches.

Parma is at Pescara and Juventus plays Udinese on the road. In other games Sunday, Inter travels to Genoa to face Sampdoria; Torino hosts Lazio; Atalanta of Bergamo is at Foggia; Genoa is at Cagliari; Ancona is at Brescia; and Roma hosts Fiorentina.

Milan has lost two games in the last four weeks, suddenly revive hopes of its pursuers, despite its comfortable eight-point lead over second-place Internazionale.

Inter coach Osvaldo Bagnoli said he doesn't expect to eliminate the gap but would like to see its crosstown rival, the two teams meet Saturday, April 10, the day before Easter when no league games are scheduled.

Milan's record unbeaten streak ended after 58 games, against Parma, two weeks ago. On Tuesday, Milan was eliminated by Roma in the Italian Cup semifinals.

"March is traditionally our difficult month. But we'll prove the worst is over and that we are ready to resume a winning pace," said Milan captain and veteran sweeper Franco Baresi.

Milan is closing on its second consecutive league title and is in contention for its fifth champions cup crown this season.

Milan coach Fabio Capello confirmed for the Napoli match he will use the foreign trio of Ruud Gullit, Frank Rijkaard and Jean Pierre Papin, the same three who played Tuesday and failed to overcome a 2-0 first-leg deficit against Roma in the Italian Cup.

Milan enters match with a 17-1 record - 9-3-1 home, Napoli, 11th in the 18-team standings, is 9-6-10, 2-4-7 on the road.

Basketball's 'jump shot' devised during sibling grudge match

LARAMIE, Wyoming (AP) — Kenny Sailors was just trying to get a shot off against his older, taller brother, when he violated a cardinal rule of basketball and allowed his feet to leave the ground when he tossed the ball toward the rim.

"In those days, you didn't leave the floor when you shot, you kept both feet flat on the floor. That was the rule," said Sailors, who led Wyoming to the 1943 U.S. College Basketball (NCAA) title and played in the National Basketball Association for several years.

Sailors, 71, is recognized by basketball historians as the man who moved the game into the modern era by introducing the jump shot, which he developed on a basket outside the family

home in Hillsdale. Until then, the two handed set shot was the norm.

"My brother Bud and I grew up on a ranch in Hillsdale. He was four or five years older than me. We had a hoop on the windmill, and we'd go out there and play. And here I was 5 feet 7 (170 centimeters) and him 6-5 (196 centimeters), and I know my thinking was 'how do I get a shot off against this big bum?'"

"He'd stuff it down my throat. I started just jumping in the air and throwing the ball, and it just developed into the jump shot."

After winning the national Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) title in 1943, Sailors went on to play for seven NBA teams in five seasons before retiring in 1951.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Schwartz roars to pole position

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia (R) — Kevin Schwartz stamped his authority on practice for Sunday's Malaysian 500cc Motorcycling Grand Prix with a blistering ride in Saturday's final session. The Texan, who won the season-opening Australian round of the World Championship in five style last weekend, took his Suzuki round the tight Shah Alam Circuit in one minute 25.533 seconds. Second fastest was Australian Daryl Beattie on his Honda, but he had to rely on the 1:25.643 he set during Friday's first qualifying session. All the other top riders improved their times and Yamaha's world champion Wayne Rainey moved to third place, little more than 0.2 of a second slower than Beattie. Spain's Alex Criville was fourth for Honda and completed the front row. Rated team mate Mick Doohan was fifth and relegated to the second row.

Olympic visitors to swamp Atlanta hotels

ATLANTA (AP) — The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games has reserved at least 40,000 of the 55,000 hotel and motel rooms in metro Atlanta for the 16 days of the games. Hotels and motels that have become members of ACOG's host hotel network are giving the committee the right to book 80 per cent of their rooms at a rate slightly above what the hotels are charging at the end of 1994 officials said. Hotel officials said many of the other rooms will be reserved for preferred customers and their own corporate clients and staff. By 1996, about 60,000 rooms are expected in the metro area, with 33,600 set aside for Olympic sponsors, officials, media, vendors and security personnel. ACOG is estimating 150,000 visitors will need accommodations nightly.

Sprintcar driver undergoes surgery

ADELAIDE (AP) — Former Australian sprintcar champion Phil Hereen underwent surgery for spinal injuries Saturday after a high-speed race crash, officials said. Hereen, 51, was injured Friday night when his car clipped another vehicle on the straightaway at Speedway Park, north of Adelaide. The car flipped several times and flew over both a concrete barrier and a four-metre safety fence. It narrowly missed dozens of spectators seated nearby. Hereen was trapped in the wreckage for about an hour before being freed and flown by helicopter to Royal Adelaide Hospital, where he underwent surgery. No word on his condition was immediately available.



Tomba upset in Giant Slalom: Extending a streak of upset losses, Olympic champion Alberto Tomba Friday lost to unheralded Gerhard Koenigsgraber the men's giant slalom title at the Italian Alpine Ski Championships. Tomba, who again failed this year for a World Championship title in Japan and in this season's World Cup, missed his seventh national title as he trailed the winner by 0.57 seconds after two runs in this Alpine event. "The first run was too long and I was sinking on soft snow in the bottom part of the course," said Tomba, the first Alpine skier ever to defend an Olympic title.

GOVERN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HERSCH
Taurus Media Services, Inc.

MEASURE YOUR SKILL

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
4
A 7 6
Q J 9 5 3
K J 6 2

WEST
K Q J 10 8
Q 10 8
A 6 2
9 4

EAST
9 6 2
7 4 3
K 10 8 7
10 8 5 3

SOUTH
A 7 6 3
K J 9 5 2
4
A Q 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Here's another opportunity for you to test your skill. Cover the East-West hands and decide how you would play four hearts after the lead of the king of spades.

If you won the ace of spades, ruffed a spade and cashed the ace and king of hearts before starting on clubs, you have not looked deeply enough into the situation. As the cards lie, West will ruff the third

club and take two spades and a diamond to defeat you.

Let's try a different tack. If, after ruffing a spade, you came to hand with a club to ruff another spade, then cashed the ace of hearts, crossed back to hand with another high club to cash the king of hearts, 10 tricks will roll in unless the distribution is most unlikely. You will be defeated only in the unlikely event that East started with a six-card spade suit and East can overruff the third spade, or trumps split 4-1.

Even better technique is to win the first spade, cash the ace and king of hearts and, leaving a trump outstanding, start running the clubs. A defender can ruff a club, but there's still a trump in dummy to take care of one of your spade losers, and another goes on the fourth club.

The gold star goes to those who found yet another approach. Allow West to win the first spade! Ruff the spade continuation (no shift makes any difference), cash the ace of hearts and lead a heart to the jack. Besides being the most elegant line, it guards against East having started with four trumps and loses only if West was dealt exactly six spades and two trumps to the queen.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY APRIL 4, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Wind up whatever has been left undone early in the day and use the good aspects of the evening to enjoy yourself with that special person that really means the most to you. Getting the right results will be easy.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Unusual friends and acquaintances are the best way to put into motion the activities most important to you after handling a built up obligation.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Retire somewhat from outside activities after keeping a promise made to a partner and think of ways to be more successful in out of the ordinary ways.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be your most gregarious self in contacting the persons you feel can be jointly helpful in some interesting longing after getting vital tasks performed.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Do what you have agreed for your mate early and then get out in public for whatever obligations or activities you need to handle there.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have a home duty to attend to but then be alert to all kinds of new and interesting outlets by which to make your fondest dreams come true.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September

22) Whatever brings you more accord with your attachment is an opportunity that you should seize and turn to your advantage for whatever success you desire.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Listen attentively to what one who is enthusiastic about some skill with which you have possessed, and the way that people feel you can use it.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) An electric quality is present in doing the various things that face you today which will carry you over any rough spots also, present.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Put behind your personal wishes while you join with congenial companions in the entertainments and amusements that they want you to do.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't let a task you feel pressured to do keep you from finding out how you can best do those things for your family or household they desire.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are so filled with the desire to express your personal abilities and special aptitudes that not a moment should be lost this precious day.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You suddenly become inspired, with some very wonderful ideas different from those you usually have so quietly jot them down, arrange to use them.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"My first fiance was a turtle named Eleanor. But I was only four years old and things didn't work out."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

COINT

LUGBY

SNAFET

RYSLIG



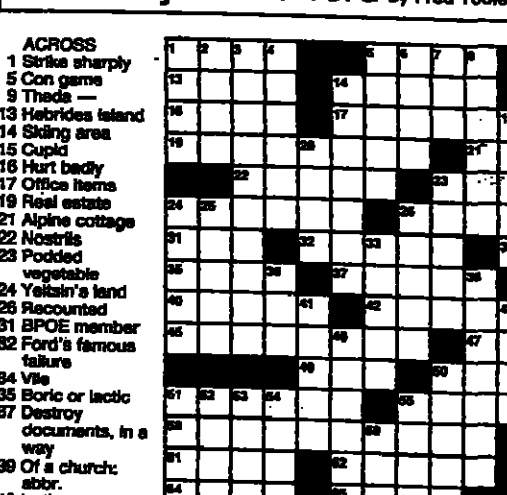
THE KIND OF TOAST THE NEW BRIDE AND GROOM MADE.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumble: DAISY WAGER STOOGE PELVIS

Answer: The kind of play that often came to an abrupt and in ciden days—SWOOPPLAY

THE Daily Crossword by Fred Toole



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Strike sharply
2 Con game
3 Thru
4 Island
5 Skating area
6 Cupid
7 Hurt badly
8 Office items
9 Real estate
10 Alpine cottage
11 Reaccounted
12 Poddie
13 Vegetable
14 Yelkian's land
15 Reaccounted
16 BPOE member
17 Ford's famous failure
18 Vile
19 Boris or Iaclo
20 Destroy documents, in a way
21 Of a church: abbr.
22 Indoles (to)
23 Appended
24 New Zealand parrot
25 Waspas storage places
26 Theatre lecture
27 Pindric
28 Willow
29 Toccantini
30 It's a fit to
31 Englishman
32 Government
33 Vendition
34 Home
35 "Tick or"
36 Unlocked
37 Perceived
38 Put snugly together
39 Show biz host
40 Post Thomas
41 Laminated
42 Rock
43 It's monogram
44 Meal finale
45 Sleep sound
46 804
47 Duplicate
48 Intense
49 Composer
50 Johnny
51 Barick of music
52 Outer covering of a seed
53 Lasso
54 Helper: abbr.
55 Bed covers
56 Scrooges
57 New York canal
58 Lost color
59 Lasso
60 Result of stress
61 Social darts
62 October brew
63 Item tossed at parties
64 Takes as one's own
65 Argue logically
66 New York City
67 Potted tree
68 Flightless bird
69 Containers
70 Mormon state
71 Sword
72 Corrida cheers
73 Budget item
74 Exit

World No. 1 Courier tumbles out of Salem Open

OSAKA, Japan (Agencies) — World number one Jim Courier tumbled out of the Salem Open Saturday.

He lost 7-5 7-6 in his semifinal to Amos Mansdorf, whom he has beaten five times before, twice in semifinals of major tournaments.

"I didn't play very well and he played much better," was all the glum American offered to reporters' questions after his defeat. Mansdorf will meet second seed Michael Chang, a 6-2 3-6 6-3 winner over unseeded Frenchman Stephane Simian, in Sunday's final.

"Today I was really going for it," said a fired up Mansdorf. "I took chances and didn't wait for him to miss."

"I feel very good, but this is not my biggest or most memorable win... now I've got to put this match behind me and concentrate on the final."

Mansdorf clinched the second set tiebreak 7-4 with an ace after

Courier had double-faulted when he was 3-3 down.

"I didn't serve very well today," said Courier. "Why? That's a good question."

"If I knew the answers... I would never make any mistakes," Mansdorf predicted. Sunday's final would be entertaining for the crowd.

"We will be hitting a lot of balls and doing a lot of running. Both of us will be trying to play clever and get in the right positions." Chang, ranked ninth in the world, countered a spirited challenge from Frenchman Stephane Simian, who concentrated on charging the net after his first serves.

"Normally that's not the most sensible play. But when you're as big as he is and have as long a reach, it can be quite effective play," Chang said.

The American has beaten Mansdorf three times in their

four meetings.

Ferreira, Volkov reach semifinals

Top-seeded Wayne Ferreira overcame a poor start to beat Germany's Joern Renzenbrink Friday and advance to the semifinals of the South African Open tennis tournament.

The South African defeated his unseeded opponent 3-6, 6-1, 6-3. Earlier, second-seeded Alexander Volkov of Russia and fifth-seeded American Aaron Krickstein trounced their opponents to reach the semifinals.

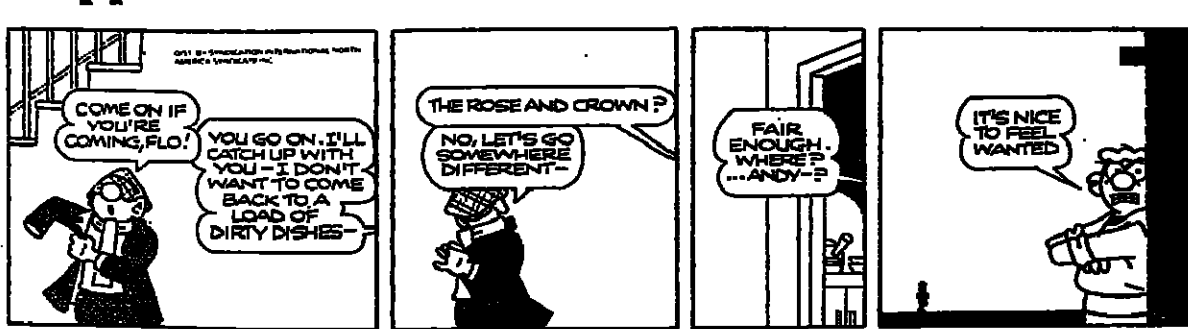
Volkov needed less than an hour to beat Lars Jonsson of Sweden 6-1, 6-2. Krickstein defeated fellow American Alex Reichel 6-4, 6-0.

In other play Friday in the \$300,000 tournament, South Africa's Grant Stafford narrowly defeated Robbie Weiss of the United States 7-5, 7-6 (7-3).

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Serbs reject peace plan; new fighting rages around Srebrenica

BILECA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Rebel Serb lawmakers voted Saturday against a peace plan for Bosnia, while a U.N. relief convoy headed toward the besieged Muslim enclave of Srebrenica.

Frustrating months of international mediation, deputies to a self-proclaimed Serb parliament formally rejected a proposal for the division of Bosnia into 10 semi-autonomous provinces.

The Bileca assembly in southern Bosnia dismissed as too moderate leader Radovan Karadzic's resolution that the plan was unacceptable but could be a basis for further talks.

A total of 68 deputies voted against the plan touted by peace envoys Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen. One lawmaker abstained.

The relief convoy, blocked by Serbs Friday, crossed the Yugoslav-Bosnian border Saturday on its way to Srebrenica, said Luarsen Jolley, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Belgrade.

Srebrenica is one of the last areas in eastern Bosnia still held by Muslims.

The U.N. aid convoy abandoned the attempt to reach Srebrenica Saturday when its route was blocked in the nearby Serb town of Bratunac, U.N. officials said.

The convoy of 16 trucks which intended to evacuate refugees among the 40,000 population returned to the border between Bosnia and Serbia, they added.

The convoy was the third this week to deliver food, medicine and other supplies and evacuate sick and destitute people, Mr. Jolley said. It was doubled in size

to 16 trucks, half of which were empty.

Evacuations from Srebrenica were suspended Thursday after six people were killed in an evacuation Wednesday. More than 2,300 people escaped in 19 jammed trucks Monday, and at least three babies died during the trip.

At U.N. headquarters in New York, the Security Council planned to meet Saturday to consider issuing a statement expressing concern about Serbs' attempts to delay delivery of relief supplies to Srebrenica.

In a statement, the Serb deputies said they rejected the peace plan because it would unfairly divide territory, mineral resources, and industries, and would not correspond to the ethnic composition of the population.

"The maps...directly jeopardise the existence of the Serbian people in these lands," Mr. Karadzic told reporters Saturday, supporting rejection of the plan.

"We are for peace, but not at the price of the catastrophic disappearance of the Serb people...the acceptance of the maps would be the suicide of the Serbian people," he said.

The peace plan had been accepted by the Bosnian government and the republic's ethnic Croats.

Mr. Karadzic said he hoped the Clinton administration would agree to self-determination of ethnic groups and the division of Bosnia-Herzegovina into three parts.

Mr. Karadzic also said the next session of his parliament will be in three weeks. If there was no progress by then, he said, "we

will go our own way." He was referring to threats expressed by deputies that the self-proclaimed Serb Republic in Bosnia should declare full independence and unite with the Serb-held Krajina region in southern Croatia.

The Bosnian Muslim government will continue strengthening defenses because Bosnian Serbs are unwilling to embrace peace, said Bosnian presidency spokesman Kemal Mistic in Sarajevo Saturday.

"The Vance-Owen plan is not the best solution for us either, but we signed it because we want peace," he said.

U.N. representatives in the Srebrenica area had observed multiple ceasefire violations as of Friday afternoon, including shelling, mortar and small arms fire, U.N. spokesman Cmdr. Barry Frewer said Saturday.

Cmdr. Frewer said the U.N. was making complaints to both Muslims and Bosnian Serb authorities.

UNHCR spokesman John McMillan said the fighting jeopardised the Srebrenica convoy. "If there's warfare, we're not going to go into it," he said.

Another previously blocked convoy bound for Gorazde was also reported on its way, but one for the besieged town of Zepa was still being held at Podgorica, Mr. Laurens said in Belgrade.

In Brussels, Belgium, the NATO alliance Friday approved a plan to use warplanes to enforce the U.N.-imposed ban on aircraft flying over Bosnia.

But enforcement of the flight ban may not be much help to Bosnian government forces — the Serbs have waged mostly

ground offensives against the Muslim-led government and civilian populations.

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Saturday 17 detainees at a Bosnian Serb-controlled detention camp may have been killed while being taken to work in a front-line combat area.

An ICRC statement said that during a visit to the Batkovic detention camp in north-eastern Bosnia on March 31, its delegates were told the detainees' vehicle was ambushed on March 26.

Serbia dismissed as groundless allegations it is sponsoring a genocide campaign against Bosnian Muslims and told the World Court Friday that all sides are guilty of atrocities in the ethnic war.

Bosnia's Muslim government has asked the U.N. court for protection from what it claims are Serb attempts to exterminate its Muslim population. It also seeks a ruling in support of outside military intervention.

The leader of the Serb delegation, Ljubinko Zivkovic, denied Belgrade was involved in the year-old Bosnian war and said Bosnian Serbs also have been victims of war crimes in what he called "a clear-cut case of civil war."

"Their basic human rights, even lives, are also being violated," Mr. Zivkovic told the 14-judge panel, which has no enforcement power but can sway world opinion. The case is the first World Court complaint under the 1948 Paris Convention against genocide.

Karabakh Armenians report military success against Azeris

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh said Saturday they had seized the key town of Kelbadzhar in western Azerbaijan after several days of fighting.

But Azerbaijan, which declared a state of emergency Friday, said that Armenian fighters had not yet taken the town though they controlled high grounds for launching artillery attacks.

"They have installed artillery and are shelling the regional centre," said Mehman Aliyev, deputy press secretary of the president, reached by telephone from Moscow.

The Armenian News Agency Snark said Armenian fighters from the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh entered the town, which has a population of about 10,000, Friday.

It quoted Karabakh authorities as saying Azeri forces had fled in panic abandoning large quantities of military equipment.

Kelbadzhar region has no road links with the rest of Azerbaijan because of fighting in the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, the longest-running conflict in the former Soviet Union.

The Azeri authorities say that 20,000 of the 60,000 people of the region have managed to escape

over mountain passes and another 3,000 have been flown out of helicopter.

They claim Armenian regular forces and Russian troops in the region joined in a pincer movement against Kelbadzhar.

The Armenians deny their regular forces are involved and say Armenian fighters from Karabakh are counter-attacking against an attempt by the Azeris to sever the Lachin supply corridor between the territory and Armenia.

Turkey warns Armenia

Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel said Saturday Turkey was running out of patience with its neighbour Armenia.

"If the Armenian oppression of the Azeri people does not end shortly and the attacks are not stopped, it should be known that Turkey's patience is running out," he was quoted by Anatolian News Agency as telling a crowd in western Bursa city.

Mr. Demirel said Armenia had misunderstood Turkey's goodwill in letting a European aid cargo pass through its soil to reach the destitute Armenia.

"There has been hunger in Armenia, we have sent them bread. This is a goodwill, but they misunderstood it," he said.

Mr. Demirel also said Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey had

asked him to send helicopters to the enclave, "but this does not seem to be practical," he said.

Turkey halted passage of Western aid to Armenia, news media reported Saturday.

Deputy Prime Minister Erdal Inonu said Friday that Armenia should not expect help from Turkey while maintaining a military force to deteriorate villages or cities of thousands of population.

Turkey stepped up its diplomatic efforts to pressure Armenia.

Premier Suleyman Demirel said Turkey would raise the issue with the U.N. Security Council Saturday, the Anatolia News Agency said.

Turkey and Azerbaijan have close ethnic, linguistic and cultural bonds, while relations between Turkey and Armenia have been strained for decades over accusations that 1.5 million Armenians were massacred in 1915. Turkey denies any such massacre.

Under Western pressure, Turkey agreed earlier this year to provide passage for relief aid to Armenia.

Turkey has recognised Armenia as an independent state but has not established diplomatic ties because of the fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh, which has been going on since 1988.

Man falls from 22nd floor and lives

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — Christopher Sagers fell 60 metres from a 22nd-storey apartment, crushing a parked car, then he brushed himself off and walked away. Sagers, 26, suffered a broken elbow, a neck injury and bruises, police reported. He was in comfortable condition at Salford's Hope Hospital, a hospital statement said. The reason for Sagers' fall was not known, and his father seemed to rule out a motivation for suicide. "He has a job and lives at home and seems happy enough to me. So far he has given me no good reason why this happened. He has never expressed to me any problems he might have had," Les Sagers told the Daily Mail. He didn't specify his son's job. A passer-by saw Mr. Sagers fall, hit the roof of the car, lie on the vehicle for about 15 seconds and then start to brush himself off. Mr. Sagers was later found wandering in the street. "Falling from great heights can lead to a reduction in the level of consciousness, which makes muscles relax, and this could lessen the impact," said Alison Gammon, an emergency unit consultant at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. "He had landed bang in the middle of the roof and it had caved in," said the car's owner, Michael Afila. "It must have been a million-to-one chance for him to hit the car right in the middle." "There wasn't a spot of blood anywhere," said John Whalley, the caretaker of the Salford apartment block where Mr. Sagers fell. Mr. Sagers is from Manchester's Salford area.

French Socialists begin electoral post-mortem

PARIS (R) — Reeling from an electoral rout, leaders of France's Socialist Party gathered Saturday to ponder a future clouded by internal squabbling and a fight to succeed unpopular Socialist President Francois Mitterrand.

The party's governing committee met less than a week after being driven from power by a centre-right alliance in a general election and immediately heard former leader Lionel Jospin announce he was withdrawing from politics.

"I think we must learn the lessons from so serious a defeat," said Mr. Jospin, announcing his departure from both the 132-member governing committee and the party's smaller, 45-member executive office.

Mr. Jospin's retreat symbolised the party's disarray and the disappointment shared by many veteran activists after holding power for 10 of the past 12 years.

Mr. Jospin, Socialist leader in 1981-87 and former education minister, had wanted to become a party standard-bearer but suffered a setback at a fractious party congress in Rennes in 1990.

The current party leader, Laurent Fabius, survived the Rennes meeting but now is under pressure to resign following an electoral embarrassment that slashed Socialists' seats in parliament to 54 from 249.

The defeat was a major setback for Mr. Mitterrand, head of state since 1981, whose popularity has waned badly.

Former Prime Minister Michel Rocard, the party's favoured candidate to succeed Mr. Mitterrand in 1995, has proposed holding a special congress in July to dissolve the current leadership and review everything from policies to the party's name.

Mr. Rocard wants the party to move quickly so that the effects of his proposed "big bang" — a new, sweeping coalition of Socialists, Ecologists, centrists and moderate Communists — can be felt well before the 1995 presidential vote.

But Mr. Rocard, like many other Socialist leaders, lost his parliamentary seat in last month's election, throwing doubt over his presidential hopes, while Mr. Fabius was reelected.

Followers of Mr. Rocard and Mr. Jospin were expected to demand Mr. Fabius' resignation from the party leadership at the meeting.

But Mr. Rocard said the meeting was "neither the place nor the time to try to identify those who are responsible" for the Socialists' electoral disaster.

Mr. Fabius, saying he did not want to be the party's scapegoat, proposed a congress in the autumn.

He said that if forced he would resign, but only if the party's entire leadership stepped down and those who held power over the past 12 years were barred from its inner circle.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Juan De Borbon buried in Spain

SAN LORENZO DE EL ESCORIAL, Spain (AP) — Juan De Borbon, the father of King Juan Carlos who renounced his claim to the throne, was buried Saturday in a private ceremony. Juan De Borbon, 79, died Thursday of throat cancer in the University of Navarra Clinic where he was hospitalised since Sept. 16. More than 30,000 people filed past the bier of Juan De Borbon Friday night and Saturday morning at the royal palace in Madrid, officials said. His body was taken to the El Escorial Monastery, 30 kilometres northwest of Madrid, following a funeral mass in the royal palace attended by the Spanish royal family and members of the government. El Escorial is the traditional resting place of Spanish royalty. Only immediate family members attended the burial at El Escorial for a man who was the son of a king and the father of a king, but never king himself. Don Juan, as he was known in Spain, was the third son of King Alfonso XIII. Alfonso XIII abdicated in 1931 and went into exile when Spaniards voted in the second republic.

Clinton names new Bosnia ambassador

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton named Friday Victor Jackovich, a career officer with the United States Information Agency, to be ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mr. Jackovich has spent the past several months in Geneva engaged in peace negotiations with the former Yugoslav republics, the White House said in a statement. Fluent in several Slavic languages, Mr. Jackovich was last posted overseas as cultural affairs officer in Moscow. The White House also named Tony Gallegos acting chairman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Mr. Gallegos has been a commissioner with the agency since 1982 and is its first Hispanic chairman. The White House said Mr. Clinton also intended to nominate Walter Stomobe to be deputy under secretary of defence for policy, and Ellen Haas as assistant secretary of agriculture for food and consumer services.

El Salvador to retire 15 key officers

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said El Salvador has agreed to purge 15 key military officers linked to human rights abuses. In a letter Friday to the Security Council, Mr. Ghali said Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said he would, by the end of the year, implement recommendations of the U.N.-backed "truth commission." The panel said two weeks ago that the military should be purged of the worst human rights offenders and those linked to atrocities committed during El Salvador's 12-year civil war.

The Cristiani government earlier balked at implementing the recommendations for purging human rights offenders and parliament, which is controlled by Mr. Cristiani's party, issued a broad amnesty. But Mr. Ghali said he had asked Mr. Cristiani to act swiftly in the case of 15 officers, whom he did not identify. But the list apparently included Defence Minister Emilio Ponce.

U.S. releases \$50 million in suspended aid to Nicaragua

WASHINGTON (AP) — Citing progress on human rights and other issues, the State Department announced Friday the release of \$50 million in aid to Nicaragua that had been suspended for almost a year.

Spokesman Richard Boucher said the Nicaraguan government has agreed to extend the life of a commission set up to examine rights abuses and also has suspended police officers guilty of rights violations.

He praised the government for cutting back on the size of the armed forces and for reducing inflation to less than 10 per cent.

"The government of Violeta Chamorro is taking a number of steps at the urging of the United States to address issues that are vital to the consolidation of democracy and to Nicaragua's ability to attract aid and foreign investment," Mr. Boucher said.

The Bush administration, at the request of Sen. Jesse Helms, suspended \$104 million in aid last year. In December, the State Department agreed to release \$54 million, leaving \$50 million still frozen. With Friday's announce-

ANC denies supporting government homeland 'plans'

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) denied Saturday that it supported President F.W. de Klerk's reported plans to speed up the reincorporation of the black homelands into South Africa.

The ANC, the main group negotiating the end of white rule with the South African government, said in a statement it did support the reincorporation of the homelands but this should only be done after agreement at multi-party democracy talks.

"The key element of this proposal is reincorporation into a South Africa that has a democratic constitution, and not in terms of the existing apartheid constitution," said the ANC in response to media reports that it backed Mr. De Klerk's plans.

The National Party government is widely reported to have drawn up plans to reincorporate the homelands, created as part of its past apartheid policies, as early as next month.

The proposed reincorporation of the fragmented tribal territories has been a key sticking point in the multi-party talks which resumed Thursday after 10-months of deadlock.

Bulgarian peacekeepers killed in Cambodia attack

KOMPONG SPEU, Cambodia (Agencies) — Three U.N. peacekeepers from Bulgaria were killed when Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked their unit with mortar and automatic weapons fire, U.N. officials said.

It was the sixth attack on U.N. personnel in Cambodia in a week. Two peacekeepers were killed in the previous attacks.

U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said the guerrillas launched an hour-long attack at about 11 p.m. Friday on 20 Bulgarian peacekeepers posted in Kompong Speu province in western Cambodia. The Bulgarians returned fire.

The six wounded soldiers were evacuated by road to another Bulgarian post nearby, where three soldiers died upon arrival, Mr. Falt said. Their identities were withheld pending notification of kin.

The other three were evacuated by helicopter to Phnom Penh. One, with a shrapnel injury to the hip, was being treated at the U.N. field hospital. The other two, both with head injuries, were evacuated Saturday morning to Bangkok.

The same platoon came under fire a second time early Saturday morning, but no one was injured, Mr. Falt said. More than 20 other Bulgarian peacekeepers were called in as reinforcements.

Lt. Marinov Zdravko, second in command of the Bulgarian battalion headquarters in this provincial capital, said the roads leading toward the area attacked

Clinton urges forest meeting to 'move beyond confrontation'

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — President Bill Clinton convened a northwest U.S. forest conference, urging bitter rivals in a clash over jobs and the environment to "move beyond confrontation" and work with him to find the elusive compromise.

"A healthy economy and a healthy environment are not at odds with each other — they are essential to each other," Mr. Clinton said in his opening statement. "This is not about choosing between jobs and the environment but recognising the importance of both."

A parade of witnesses then spoke, many poignantly, of the fragile state of the Pacific northwest's ancient forests and the rare species that call them home. Mr. Clinton also heard of the suffering of timber workers' families because of jobs lost after courts blocked logging on millions of acres (hectares) of federal lands to protect the northern spotted owl.

Clinton urges forest meeting to 'move beyond confrontation'

But environmentalists demanded that Mr. Clinton permanently forbid timber cutting in the old growth forests.

With Vice President Al Gore and a handful of cabinet members at his side, Mr. Clinton convened the day's conference hoping presidential prestige would end the impasse between environmentalists and a timber industry that blames massive job losses on overzealous environmental protection.

U.S. President Bill Clinton (right) and Vice President Al Gore confer during the forest conference in Portland, Oregon (AFP photo)

While Mrs. Ogata spoke at Phnom Penh's riverside Cambodian Hotel, an entire Vietnamese floating village consisting of at least 50 boats roped together — could be seen from the window of the conference room, heading southwest along the Mekong River towards Vietnam.

"I am very much aware of the problem. It is of great concern to us," Mrs. Ogata said.

"All around the world I am dealing enough with these problems. Now we have helped return 350,000 or more people back to Cambodia, this is the last thing I want to see — any kind of ethnic cleansing or any kind of political violence that might lead to an outflow of people," she said.

The UNHCR has nearly completed the mass repatriation of Cambodian refugees from camps in Thailand.

Mrs. Ogata said the Cambodian faction leaders had said that Vietnamese who had lived in Cambodia for generations should be allowed to stay in the country. However, it was up to a new government formed after U.N.-supervised elections in May to negotiate with Vietnam on the issue of migrant workers, she said.

Mrs. Ogata said she was pleased to hear Vietnam was accepting refugees returning from Cambodia.

Wife-beating is common in Japan

TOKYO (R) — Most Japanese wives responding to a survey on domestic violence said their husbands often beat them, with many saying they required hospital treatment. One husband threw his wife out the door naked into the snow, while another poured boiling water into the ear of his sleeping wife, said the survey issued Saturday by the Husband's Violence Research Association.

One respondent said her husband burned her all over with lit cigarettes. Another wife said her spouse almost ran her over with a car.

"The level of violence is much worse than we thought," said Yukiko Tsunoda, a lawyer and leading member of the association. The association distributed the questionnaire through women's and welfare groups for six months until December last year. Of the 795 women who sent in replies, 78.5 per cent said they were victims of wife-beating. More than half said they were frequently beaten in the face or sexually assaulted, but almost none had ever reported their cases to the police. About 300 said they went to hospital for treatment for broken bones, burns, and bruises. Wife-beaters included members of parliament, senior bureaucrats, doctors, university professors, and reporters, indicating that the phenomenon had nothing to do with the husband's social status.

Abused child's mother kills accused molester in court

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The mother of an abused child walked up to his accused molester in a California court and shot him dead, sheriff's officials said. Ellie Nessler entered the courtroom Friday and pulled a pistol on Daniel Driver, facing seven counts of sexually molesting children. Mrs. Nessler, 40, the mother of one of the boys Mr. Driver was alleged to have molested at a church camp, was arrested after the slaying in Jamestown, in California's historic gold-prospecting country, southeast of Sacramento. She walked up behind Mr. Driver and fired between two and six rounds from a small calibre semi-automatic pistol into the back of his head, the Tulare County Sheriff's Office said in a statement. Mr. Driver, 35, was pronounced dead at a local hospital half an hour later, the sheriff's office said. A police officer and a sheriff's investigator who were in court at the time drew their guns. Mrs. Nessler dropped her gun and was arrested, the sheriff's office said. Sheriff's officials said the woman's son had been due to testify next. The shooting happened during a recess in the hearing and the judge was not present.